

Review of **FAO/ITALY**
2012 AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS

THE REPORT 2012 COVERS PROJECTS FINANCED THROUGH EXTRA-BUDGETARY RESOURCES ON AN ANNUAL BASIS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY (MULTILATERAL SCHEME), SPECIFIC PROJECTS FINANCED THROUGH AN AD HOC AGREEMENT (MULTIBILATERAL SCHEME), PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE FAO TRUST FUND FOR FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SAFETY, AND PROJECTS UNDER THE ITALY/FAO DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION PROGRAMME.

The Report is divided in two parts: the first consists of an introduction which contains updated background information on the origins and scope of the FAO/Italy Cooperative programme, a description of the Programme's development and management and a brief summary of the various initiatives by component.

The second part includes a collection of project profiles. Each profile provides a brief description of the initiative and includes information on its location and its financial commitment, together with a record of the project's objectives, activities and expected outputs. Only projects active in 2012 are included. The Report 2012 was produced by

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Review of **FAO/ITALY**
2012 AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS

The FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme



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The FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme

Review of FAO/ITALY **2012** AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



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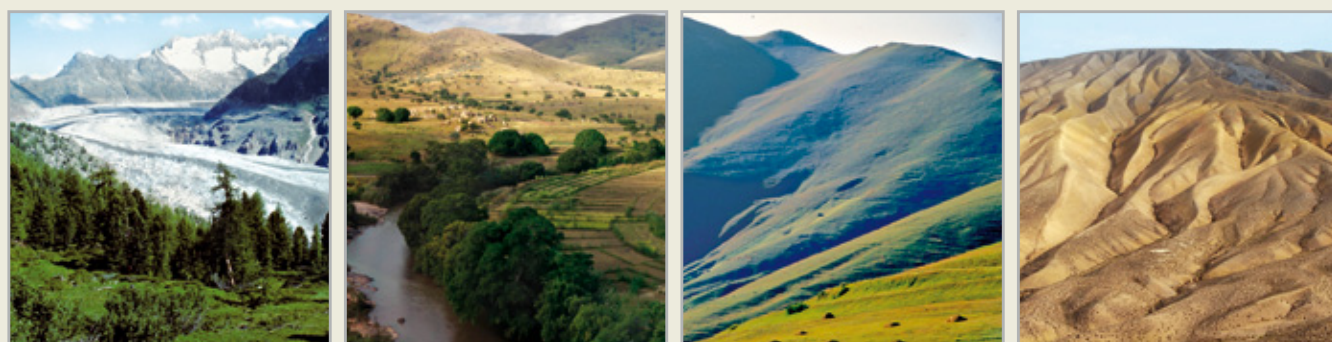
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FAO/ITALY: A SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The traditional publication of the White Book, launched in the past, has resumed this year to present a summary of projects funded by the multilateral and multibilateral voluntary contributions of the Government of Italy to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Elisabetta Belloni - Director General, Directorate for Development Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The cooperation between FAO and the Italian Development Cooperation, which commenced in 1982 with the signing of a framework agreement for the provision of trust funds, has allowed the strategic priorities of FAO and those of the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS)/Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to complement each other in the common efforts against hunger and world poverty, to promote development, exchange of knowledge and technical skills, and together achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Italy plays a prominent role internationally in the promotion of sustainable development, hosting in its capital Rome, the so-referred to as the "Rome-based Food Agencies", which

represent the major international and UN organizations that deal with food security, agriculture and sustainable development, including also FAO, WFP (World Food Programme), IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), as well as Bioversity International.

This edition of the White Book, also available in electronic format on the FAO and DGCS Web sites, will provide an overview of individual initiatives promoted through the FAO/Italy Cooperative Programme, with particular attention to priority areas both for FAO and for the Italian Development Cooperation.

Among these, I would like to mention a few, including the food security strategy through the commercialization

of agriculture, which aims to promote an approach of supply chain and market access, encouraging investment, increasing the value of local production in support of agricultural biodiversity, promoting farmer organizations and finally supporting the role of women in the food chain.

Similarly, integrated and sustainable management of water resources has been promoted as a basis for dialogue between peoples and stability and conservation of natural resources.

The FAO/Italy Cooperative Programme has also contributed to the eradication of rinderpest and the reduction of the impact from some of the most important animal diseases, such as *peste des petits ruminants* and Foot-and-Mouth Disease.



In addition, Italy has promoted in recent years the Decentralized Cooperation Programme, thus strengthening the bottom-up approach to a participatory development, ensuring joint action by regional and local authorities and the active participation of people, to respond positively to the needs of vulnerable communities.

The collaboration between Italy and FAO has been further strengthened during the Italian G8 Presidency, when the *L'Aquila Food Security Initiative* (AFSI) was launched, and, under its framework, new guidelines were developed and then approved in the *World Summit on Food*

Security in November 2009, reknown as the *Rome Principles*.

Mobilizing adequate technical, financial, and above all human resources, the Cooperation Programme between Italy and FAO always puts people at the centre of development strategies, promoting a kind of humanism of development, aimed at enhancing the potential of the individual, as a single agent and part of a community, the main actor and the final beneficiary of any intervention to promote economic and social development.

These interventions are integrated with other areas of interest to the Italian

Development Cooperation, including education, health, governance and institution building, to support countries in their growth. In this way, we intend to develop a holistic approach in the fight against poverty, ensuring an adequate level of food security and improved living conditions for disadvantaged people.

In conclusion, this publication wishes to bear witness to the long-term cooperation between Italy and FAO, and contribute to dialogue and exchange of information to promote an integrated and coordinated approach to ensure a real improvement in access to food in the poorest areas of the world.



WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The publication of the White Book 2012 is further evidence of the long partnership between the Government of Italy and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), especially to describe their combined efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty. This partnership has been built over sixty years, from when FAO headquarters was established in Rome. FAO is the largest specialized agency of the UN system in Italy, with the mandate to raise the levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, improve the lives of rural people and contribute to economic growth.

Laurent Thomas - FAO Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department

The Government of Italy plays an important role in the work of the Organization, becoming over time one of the largest contributors, and providing, in addition to the regular contribution, voluntary funds for the implementation of initiatives against hunger and poverty.

The FAO/Italy Cooperative Programme was established in the 1980s. Since

then, more than 400 projects have been implemented in the field, for a total of USD 700 million in over 80 countries worldwide.

These projects are contributing to the improvement of food security in poor and depressed areas, through the transfer of resources, knowledge and skills to small farmers, to allow broad active participation in the development process.

By working together, Italy and FAO cooperate to create platforms, to exchange experiences and lessons at different levels, bridging the gap between knowledge and capacities, supporting countries' efforts to embed their right to food into national legislation, strategies, policies and programmes.

The Government of Italy has also strongly supported FAO reform, which began



in 2008, to adapt the work of the Organization to emerging needs and challenges, including global warming, resource degradation, wide-scale animal epidemics, food crises, natural disasters, and more recently, the increase in commodity prices and market instability.

The reform process has succeeded in re-orienting FAO's work by linking performance to results, in line with the mandate and strategic objectives of the Organization, thus improving efficiency with a more rational use of resources.

I take this opportunity to thank the Government of Italy for its continued support to the goals and priority activities of the Organization and I hope that this long and fruitful partnership can be expanded and strengthened in the future.



INTRODUCTION TO THE WHITE BOOK

REPORT ON FAO/ITALY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS 2012

This edition of the report has been compiled by the FAO Resource Mobilization and Operations Support Service (TCSR) within the Technical Cooperation Department, in collaboration with the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through *Ufficio II* responsible for multilateral cooperation.



Origins

Since the first edition in 1988, the aim of the White Book has been to present a clear and exhaustive picture of the activities of the FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme. Following its last publication in 2006, the White Book tradition has resumed this year to provide an up-to-date report on projects financed by the Government of Italy through voluntary annual contributions (multilateral system) and projects funded through specific agreements (multilateral system), implemented within: the FAO/Government of Italy Traditional Programme; through the Italian Contribution to FAO Global Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety; and through the Italy/FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme (IFDCP).

Audience

The White Book 2012 is intended to provide an up-to-date overview of the Government of Italy's voluntary contributions to FAO. It is a useful work tool mainly for officers of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and FAO, by giving a concise description of the FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme's current projects.

Structure

As in previous editions, the 2012 report is divided into two parts: an introduction which contains updated information on FAO, on the origins and scope of the FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme, and a brief description of its main components; the second part deals with the current status of the

active projects, which are listed both according to component reference and also to geographical area. As in previous editions, profiles of the projects are included. Each profile describes in brief: the project, the financial commitment, the objectives and where available, the activities and results.

The current publication includes exclusively ongoing initiatives implemented within the framework of the FAO/Italy Cooperative Programme.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations would like to express its appreciation to the staff of both the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*Ufficio II/DGCS*) and of FAO for preparing this report.



INTRODUCTION TO FAO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FAO has been based in Italy since 1951. As a specialized agency of the United Nations, FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy.

Mandate and Institution

FAO's main mission is to fight hunger and malnutrition, making sure people everywhere have regular access to adequate food. In this way, alongside the international community, FAO undertakes to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in particular the First Goal which aims at halving, by 2015, the percentage of people suffering from hunger, by reducing poverty and improving the standard of living of the present and future generations, through ecologically sustainable agricultural activity.

Italy's constant and intense participation enables FAO to succeed in one of its most important roles: to be a neutral forum for every nation, where Members of the Organization can meet and take decisions on food security, trade, fishing, forestry, environment and much more.

FAO is composed of seven departments:

- > Agriculture and Consumer Protection;
- > Economic and Social Development;
- > Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- > Forestry;
- > Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance;
- > Natural Resources Management and Environment; and
- > Technical Cooperation.

Besides its headquarters in Rome, FAO is present in over 130 countries. Furthermore, the Organization has five regional offices (for Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and for the Near East), 11 subregional



The Millennium Development Goals

- Goal 1** Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2** Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3** Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4** Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5** Improve maternal health
- Goal 6** Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7** Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8** Develop a Global Partnership for Development

The Goal 1, which is to halve the percentage of people who suffer from hunger by 2015, so reducing poverty, directly involves the work and action of FAO. In fact, the vision of FAO is that of a world free from hunger and malnutrition for the present and future generations, in which agriculture contributes towards improving the standard of living for all, in an ecologically sustainable way. The Organization is a worldwide centre for the collection of information and knowledge on food products and agriculture, a forum for political dialogue and regulator for agreements among nations, to sensitize and to mobilize resources. The Organization works hard towards the achievement of Goal 7 (ensure environmental sustainability), Goal 3 (promote gender equality and empower women) and Goal 8 (develop a global partnership for development). Furthermore, the work of FAO to reduce hunger and malnutrition has significant indirect impact also on the other goals.

offices, five liaison offices and four information offices (in North America, Japan, at the European Union and at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York and the offices in Geneva). An intergovernmental Organization, FAO has 191 Member Countries, two associated Members and an Organization Member, the European Union.

FAO WORKS CLOSELY WITH MANY OF ITS SISTER AGENCIES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. FURTHERMORE, NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER ORGANS OF CIVIL SOCIETY PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE WORK OF FAO.



History in the making

At the beginning of the twentieth century, a first attempt was made to create an international organization for cooperation in the field of agriculture. On 7 June 1905, the Italian King, Vittorio Emanuele III and 74 delegates from participating governments, signed the founding Convention of the International Institute of Agriculture. Its functions were to collect and publish statistical, technical and economical information on agriculture. In 1935, a mixed committee was created within the League of Nations to deal with agricultural and food problems. The aim was to go on to create an intergovernmental organization. In May 1943, the President of the United States of America, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, called a conference of the United Nations on food and agriculture which was held in Hot Springs, Virginia.

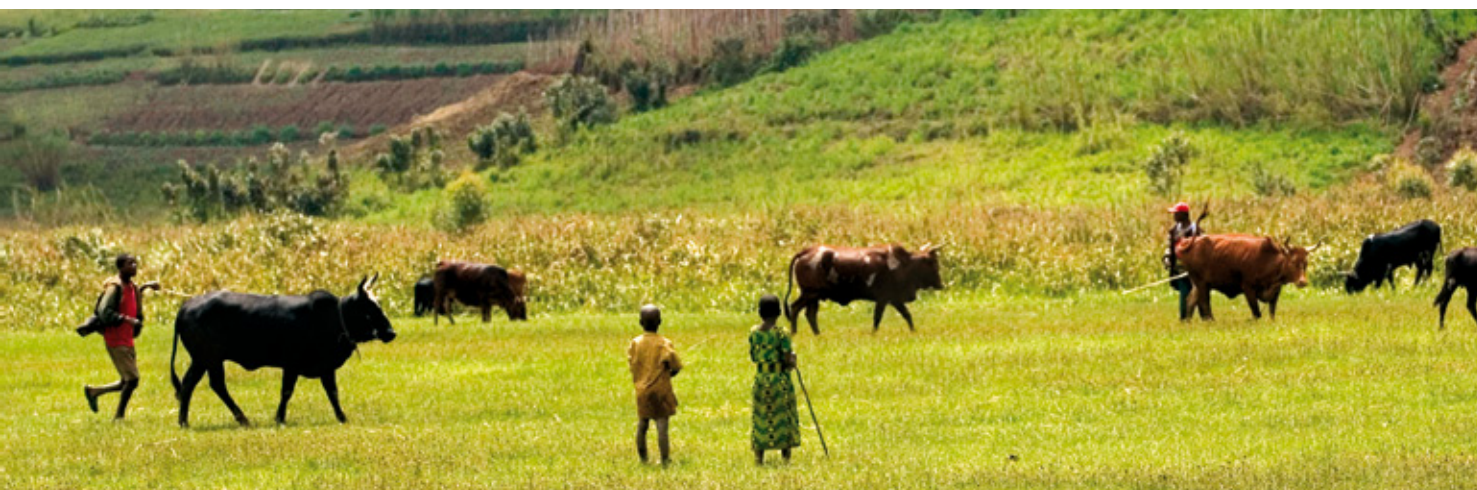
A wide consensus was reached among the participants who saw the need on the one hand to increase agricultural production at global level, the need to divulge technical know-how, the responsibility of every government to guarantee sufficient food to its own people and on the other hand, to create a temporary commission comprising 44 countries, whose undertaking would be that of drawing up the Statute of the Organization of the United Nations for Food and Agriculture. The first FAO conference was held in Quebec City, Canada, on 16 October 1945.

The Organization's first headquarters were set up in Washington. However, following the General Council's decision in 1951, FAO was transferred to Rome, also home to other organizations which deal with agriculture, food security and sustainable development: World Food Program (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). In 2011 FAO celebrated 60 years in Rome.

Competitive Advantages

FAO's role as a neutral forum for discussion and negotiation and as a source of knowledge and information, confirm its commitment to the fight against hunger. FAO's guiding role is significant in activities geared at improving and modernizing agricultural, forestry and fishery practices, with the main aim of tackling food insecurity and reducing poverty especially in rural areas in countries in transition and in developing countries.

FAO also gives direct help to farmers in the field through its technical know-how, competencies and experience. With the aim of guaranteeing the effectiveness of its projects, the Organization coordinates and manages thousands of projects worldwide, mobilizing millions of dollars made available by industrialized countries, development banks and other financial sources. Many of these projects respond to humanitarian emergencies caused by natural catastrophes or armed conflict.



A new approach to mobilizing resources: the FAO Reform

FAO's first strategic plan was adopted in 1999, following exhaustive internal and external consultations. Subsequently, in November 2007, FAO welcomed an Independent External Evaluation and approved a resolution to create a new strategy and a biennial work and budget plan, based on achievement of results and impact on activities (Results Based Management).

Following the recommendations of the external evaluation, an Immediate Plan of Action was adopted in 2008 to meet the priorities identified by the Members of the Organization based on their wide range of competencies. The aim was to guide the common effort and align the voluntary contributions through partnerships based on reciprocal trust and responsibility. This common responsibility meets the principles stated in the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action, on the effectiveness of aid. The overall objective is to improve the level of Organization and the ability to mobilize resources,

through an effective plan to be used in agreement with government bodies and external partners.

In this regard, to better identify and promote priorities, scheduling and utilization of resources, FAO's new strategic framework includes:

- > Three Global Goals representing the fundamental development impacts in the areas of FAO's mandate, which the Member countries aim to achieve, reflecting the vision of FAO;
- > Eleven Strategic Objectives focusing on where the Organization can better assist Members in addressing the challenges and opportunities to achieve food security and rural development, operating at sectoral and inter-sectoral level in the fields of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, food security, forestry, natural resources, creation of favourable environment, gender balanced approach, emergencies and investments;
- > Two Functional Objectives which provide the enabling environment



for the work of FAO in addition to the 11 strategic objectives with a results-based approach and greater attention to the efficiency of activities;

- > In support of this new strategy Organizational Results and Impact Focus Areas have been identified.

The new structure refers to the medium- and long-term strategic framework, thus providing flexibility to respond to the changing external environment and to address emerging priorities. Moreover, it also represents a valuable source of information on priority areas and provides specific guidance on the work of FAO.



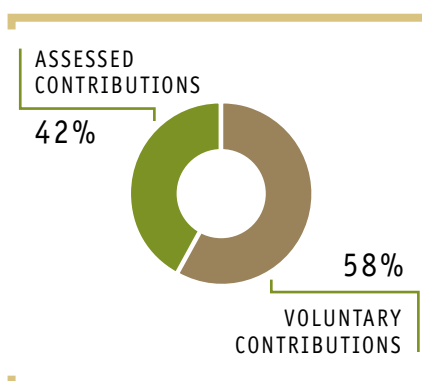
FAO Vision

To foster the achievement of this vision and of the Millennium Development Goals, FAO will promote the continuing contribution of food and sustainable agriculture to the attainment of three global goals:

- a) reduction of the absolute number of people suffering from hunger, progressively ensuring a world in which all people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- b) elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods;
- c) sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Structure and Contributions

The assessed contributions of the Member countries are used to finance the Regular Programme, involving FAO activities related mainly to the collection, analysis and distribution of data and information, as well as technical assistance to and policy support for Member countries.



The representatives of the Member countries meet at the Biennial FAO Conference to review global governance issues, policies to be implemented and the institutional framework. During the Conference, they also evaluate the work carried out and approve the budget for the next biennium. The Conference also elects the FAO Director-General and in June 2011, the new Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, was elected and took up his post on 1 January 2012.

In addition to the assessed contributions, which go towards the regular budget of FAO, some Member countries pay in voluntary contributions to sustain projects in the field. Italy is historically one of the most generous voluntary donor countries.

The total FAO budget planned for 2012-2013 is USD 2.4 billion. Of this amount, 42 percent comes from

assessed contribution paid by the Member countries, while 58 percent will be mobilized through voluntary contributions of Members and other partners.

Through its extra-budgetary contributions, the Italian Government plays a key role in implementing projects managed within the FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme.





THE FAO/GOVERNMENT OF ITALY COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME

The Italian Government has demonstrated its commitment to supporting development issues within a multilateral cooperative framework by becoming one of FAO's major supporters since the establishment of the Department General for Development Cooperation (now Directorate General for Development Cooperation-DGCS) in 1979. Following the FAO/Government of Italy framework agreement, Italy has designated approximately USD 700 million for more than 400 projects.

Origins and Institutional Context

In order to respond to changing priorities and needs, and to seize new opportunities for partnership, between 1982 and 1993 Italy financed 140 projects, with a USD 360 million contribution and in the aftermath the voluntary contribution of Italy to FAO was approximately USD 400 million, for 250 initiatives.

Comprehensively Italy has designated USD 700 million towards projects, which have benefited more than 80 countries. Over 50 percent of these projects are in Africa and in the Mediterranean/Near East Region.

The financial resources designated yearly in the form of voluntary contributions to

the Organization, and channelled through FAO's Trust Funds, embrace a range of funding modalities which include:

- > Government Cooperative Programme (GCP) also known as the Traditional Programme
- > Italian Contribution to FAO Global Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety (GTFS)



- > Decentralized Cooperation Programme (GDGP)
- > Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Operations Programme (OSRO)
- > Associate Professional Officers (APO) Programme

The General Trust Fund Agreement, signed in April 1982, and the Supplementary Agreement concluded in January 1985, provide the overall framework for the identification, selection and implementation of projects to be executed by FAO within the FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme.

Over time, the programme has become more structured allowing development plans and priorities to come together in a more coherent way. Furthermore, in recent years, ways of optimizing resources and concentrating activities in certain sectors and selected countries have been explored in order to attain the highest level of complementarities, economic efficiency and impact.

This structured programme has enabled Italy to expand the support to FAO initiatives through two additional ways: through its contributions as the first Member of FAO Global Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety, set up in 2002; and by signing an agreement in 2002 for the Italy/FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme (IFDCP), aimed at involving the Italian Local Authorities in FAO activities in developing countries.

The Government of Italy has maintained its commitment to food security on an international and high political level, as seen during Italy's Presidency of the 2009 G8. On that occasion, Italy and other world leaders launched L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, which provides

L'Aquila Food Security Initiative

On 8 July 2009, the work of the G8 Summit commenced in L'Aquila, under the presidency of Italy. As the G8 Summit progressed, countries with emerging economies joined in (Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa) and eventually also Egypt. The Summit led to a worldwide commitment to Food Security, which is closely connected to economic and social growth, as well as to political stability and peace at an international level. A joint declaration, L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI), re-launched worldwide food security as a priority on political agendas. The decision was taken to use a transversal and inclusive approach, including all interested parties at regional, national and worldwide level. Therefore, incisive action should concentrate on agricultural and rural development, production, productivity and rural economic growth, by giving attention to sustainable management of natural resources, including the protection of biodiversity. A Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security was set up to support this initiative. Its mission is to promote a better coordination at national and world level and to ensure that local and regional interests are expressed and taken into consideration.

In the 2011-2013 Guidelines, the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirms the Italian commitment to the global partnership for food security, supporting activities started by AFSI. This partnership allows the strengthening of food security cooperation worldwide and above all between the UN Rome-based Agencies which work in the fields of food and agriculture.

for the formation of a global partnership for food security and sustainable agricultural development for the most vulnerable populations.

A coordinated approach to programming priorities is maintained by constant dialogue between FAO and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. To increase the impact and effectiveness of the Italian funded initiatives, focus is placed on four main areas of the project operational management: identification,

implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Regular Tripartite Review Missions offer another opportunity to monitor and evaluate project results in the field: the three parties involved (representatives of FAO, of the Italian Government and of the host government) meet to directly assess the progress of a project and address any issue arising in the implementation of activities, in order to offer possible solutions.



THE COMPONENTS OF THE FAO/GOVERNMENT OF ITALY COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME

Agriculture and food security represent a priority sector of the Italian Development Cooperation, as stated in its Guidelines for the period 2011-2013. Hence, the UN Rome-based Agencies (FAO, WFP and IFAD) are important partners in the Italian multilateral context. The competitive advantage of FAO in specialized sectors, such as agriculture and food security, is a valuable asset in the partnership with Italy.



The FAO/Italy Cooperative Programme uses the resources received through the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS). At operational level, the Resource Mobilization and Operations Support Service (TCSR), part of FAO Technical Cooperation Department, is in charge of managing the Traditional Programme, the Italian Trust Fund for Food Security, the Decentralized Cooperation Programme and APO. The Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division (TCE) of FAO Technical Cooperation Department is in charge of funds for Emergency Programmes. Within the DGCS, the *Ufficio II* manages the multilateral component funds.

FAO/Italy Traditional Programme (GCP)

The Traditional Programme is so called because it is the longest-running. At present, 27 projects are being implemented for the value of approximately USD 53 million.

The projects are executed under two different funding arrangements, multilateral and multibilateral:

- > 21 multilateral projects financed directly through the voluntary annual contribution that the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS) *Ufficio II* makes available to international organizations (for a value of approximately USD 39 million).
- > 6 multibilateral projects forged from agreements between the DGCS regional offices and beneficiary countries; FAO is requested to implement, monitor and evaluate the initiatives (for a total value of approximately USD 14 million).

Furthermore, another 9 projects, implemented and managed by the

Traditional Programme, are funded by other Italian Ministries (for a value of approximately USD 20 million).

These initiatives propose to establish a connection between issues such as environmental degradation and sustainable development, as part of the goal to promote food security, to promote responsible management and conservation of natural resources.

The programme's strategic plan includes:

- > the implementation of development, economic and social initiatives, aimed at increasing the activities of the Organization in the field of exchange of knowledge and acquisition of competencies;
- > response to government needs to increase their ability in creating appropriate policies to sustain agricultural and economic development;
- > the promotion of data elaboration for information and statistics on the state of food, agriculture, food insecurity and trade.



Italian Contribution to FAO Global Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety (GTFS)

At the World Food Summit in 1996, Italy signed a Memorandum of Agreement with FAO aimed at contributing to the realization of the first Millennium Goal, to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015. Since then, the Italian Contribution for Food Security has been channelled through FAO and initially USD 12 million have been made available to sustain the pilot phase of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in Low-income Food-deficit Countries (LIFDCs): Angola, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Senegal.

In June 2002, during the "World Food Summit, Five years later", FAO set up a Global Trust Fund for Food Security and

Food Safety, to give new impetus to global efforts for the goal already set in 1996. Based on the results achieved and to further consolidate its support to FAO initiatives, the Italian Government was the first among Member countries of the Organization to respond to the appeal and contribute to the FAO Global Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety, with a commitment of EUR 100 million, providing concrete engagement with programmes for food security improvement. Since 2002, EUR 95 million have been allocated to finance 39 projects (19 are in the implementation phase) in 85 countries. The target is to transform agriculture into a modern, vibrant and commercially competitive sector in order to reduce hunger and improve food security through greater agricultural productivity.

The resources have been allocated according to the FAO Global Trust Fund's three thematic priority areas:

- > Food Security including actions aimed to remove technical, economical and institutional barriers which prevent farmers from achieving food security;
- > Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases which slow down production and reduce trade;
- > Investments in the sector of agriculture, in particular to promote an increase in investments in the private sector of agriculture at a national and international level.

All the projects financed by Italian Contribution through the Trust Fund include cross-sectoral activities, which all aim at achieving the main priority of food security. These projects also



SUPPORT TO FARMED-BASED ORGANIZATIONS (FBOs)

by strengthening their capability to be an effective economic player for increased food production, value addition and marketing strategies

STRENGTHENING SERVICE PROVISION

with special attention to the private sector's development to support value chain process, as well as value chain coordination and linkages

SUPPORT TO VALUE ADDITION AND MARKETING

focusing on quality improvement and better understanding of standards related to domestic and regional markets

SUPPORT TO THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

for improving market development and promotion, as well as public - private partnership for value chain innovation. This component can also include specific regulatory reform proposals to be promoted with related ministerial authorities

aim at promoting regional integration, complementing national initiatives and providing support for Regional Economic Organizations (REOs).

A new common strategy has been given to all the projects, to enhance the trade of agricultural products through better access to the market, giving smallholder farmers more economic possibilities.

The implementation of the strategy of Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture (FSCA) has moved the focus of intervention towards a value chain approach, increasing the value of local production to support agricultural biodiversity, promoting organizations of farmers and supporting the role of women in the food chain.

The commercialization of agriculture, according to regional contexts, would also permit: the implementation and harmonization of agricultural policies for the creation of regional trade centres; the reduction of trade barriers and the creation of a convergent legislation on safety and quality standards, allowing a greater degree of protection from transboundary plant and animal diseases.



Italy/FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme (GDGP)

The guidelines and programming of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs focus special attention on the Italian development system, which boosts complementarities between the Italian Government and Regions to develop agricultural projects in developing countries. The Italy/FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme (IFDCP) was launched officially in September 2002 following the signing of an agreement

between FAO and the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGSC) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The IFDCP aims to mobilize social, human and financial resources of Italian regions, provinces and local authorities in order to promote food security. The IFDCP works towards building a network between local institutions and strives to create partnerships between

Regions and Local Authorities (RLA) in donor countries and their counterparts in the recipient countries to achieve clear goals.

Joint action contributes to promote widespread participation, facilitating the intervention of NGOs, the private sector, universities and research organizations. The joint action also makes better use of external resources,



affording ever improving coordination. The projects are implemented through flexible mechanisms of financing and co-financing with FAO acting both as a catalyst and a provider of external support and technical guidance, to promote a closer city-to-city or region-to-region collaboration.

The implementation of the projects is guaranteed by FAO in synergy with local partners. In particular, FAO promotes communication with institutions and monitors the entire cycle of the project alongside the RLA.

The benefits of this decentralized and participative process are the promotion of a bottom-up approach and the creation of initiatives and policies which respond concretely to the needs of the most vulnerable populations. Since 2003, the Programme has co-financed 11 projects for a value of USD 10 million, including the contribution of RLA amounting to USD 4 million.

The thematic areas of this component are: strengthening of local skills, development of the territory, urban and peri-urban agriculture, integrated

use of water, improvement of agricultural productivity, production and diversification, post-harvest activity (marketing, food processing, etc.).

Thanks to the Italian Government, which opened up the way to collaboration between FAO and RLA, similar initiatives are currently ongoing between Regional and Local Authorities of France, Spain and Belgium, for a total of 40 projects with a value of approximately USD 25 million.



Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Operations Programme (OSRO)

In recent years, natural disasters, conflicts, economic and social crises, food emergencies, not least the recent famine emergency in Horn of Africa in the summer of 2011, have all devastated the lives of millions of people, forcing hundreds of thousands of families to abandon their homes and farming activities. These crises represent new emergencies which FAO is also called upon to deal with, to come to the aid of peoples, restore local food production and reduce dependence on food aid.

In the aftermath of natural disasters and conflicts, the Organization has helped rural peoples not only to survive, but to rebuild their lives. Through its Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Operations, FAO strives to mitigate the emergency and launch development policies and programmes. Since 1994, Italy financed 105 emergency and rehabilitation projects for a value of over USD 188 million. Sixty-one projects, meaning the majority, are in Africa, with a value of USD 143 million. At the moment, Italy is financing 13 emergency projects, again mostly in Africa, but also in Asia, Latin America and Mediterranean countries.



Associated Professional Officers Programme (APO)

The uniqueness of the cooperation between FAO and Italy lies in the fact that the Italian contribution is not merely financial, but also involves collaboration based on technical support and availability of human resources, as in the case of the Associated Professional Officers Programme for young professionals.

The APO Programme offers young graduates the opportunity to acquire experience in international development cooperation and in the United Nations system, through sponsorship by their respective governments. Since 1994, Italy has sponsored the training of 45 young experts and currently finances six APO posts.

Ongoing collaboration...

A coordinated approach on programming priorities is guaranteed by the ongoing dialogue between FAO and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Furthermore, there has always been a constant collaboration with numerous Italian academic and scientific institutions.

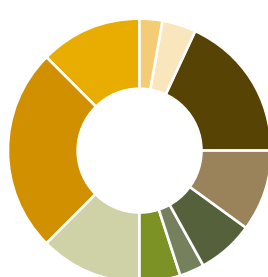
Many institutions are involved in the FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme and to name only a few: the Overseas Agronomic Institute (Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare) in Florence; the Agronomic Institute for the Mediterranean (Istituto Agronomico per il Mediterraneo) in Bari; the Universities of Ancona, Turin, Viterbo, Padua and Milan.

The participation of these Italian Institutions gives the Programme additional prestige.

Other kinds of collaboration exist between FAO and the Italian Ministry of Health, with the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, and finally the protocol of intent between FAO and the Italian Ministry of Environment, Protection of Land and Sea.



FAO/ITALY PROJECTS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO FAO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



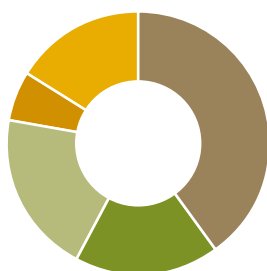
- A. Sustainable intensification of crop production
- B. Increased sustainable livestock production
- C. Sustainable management and use of fisheries and aquaculture resources
- D. Improved safety and quality of food at all stages of the food chain
- E. Sustainable management of forests and trees
- F. Sustainable management of land, water and genetic resources and improved responses to global environmental challenges
- G. Enabling environment for markets to improve livelihoods
- H. Improved food security and better nutrition
- I. Improved preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agricultural threats and emergencies
- L. Increased and more effective public and private investment in agriculture and rural development



TOTAL ONGOING PROJECTS BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

Geographical areas	No. of projects	Contribution (USD)
Africa	20	47 102 069
Asia	10	21 300 215
Near East and Mediterranean	9	24 510 897
Latin America	3	16 558 419
Interregional and Global	8	18 105 125
Total	50	127 576 725

TOTAL ONGOING PROJECTS BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS



- Africa
- Near East and Mediterranean
- Asia
- Latin America
- Interregional and Global





FAO/ITALY COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME PROJECTS



Traditional Programme Multilateral

GCP/AFG/046/ITA	Integrated Dairy Scheme Development in Herat Province, Afghanistan 2007 – 2012 Budget: USD 4 000 000	GCP/INT/100/ITA	Support to the Implementation Process of the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) 2010 – 2013 Budget: USD 2 800 000
GCP/BKF/050/ITA	Support to Improvement and Sustainable Management of Small Livestock in Peri-urban Areas of Burkina Faso 2009 – 2012 Budget: USD 549 745	GCP/INT/110/ITA	Policy and Technical Support for National Contingency Planning in Countries at Direct Risk of New Virulent Races of Wheat Rusts 2010 – 2012 Budget: USD 185 000
GCP/EGY/024/ITA	Improving Household Food and Nutrition Security in Egypt by Targeting Women and Youth 2012 – 2016 Budget: USD 3 001 167	GCP/INT/124/ITA	Coping with Water Scarcity - The Role of Agriculture (Phase III) - Strengthening National Capacities in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria 2011 – 2014 Budget: USD 2 373 000
GCP/ETH/073/ITA	Strengthening Fruit and Cactus Pear Production in Tigray and North Wollo, Ethiopia 2007 – 2012 Budget: USD 2 650 073	GCP/MON/007/ITA	Improvement of Quality Meat for Consumers in Mongolia 2011 – 2013 Budget: USD 520 000
GCP/GLO/204/MUL	Framework Programme for Promoting Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas 2007 – 2012 Budget: USD 1 900 000	GCP/MYA/010/ITA	Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture Livelihoods in Coastal Mangrove Ecosystems in Myanmar 2009 – 2012 Budget: USD 1 250 000
GCP/INT/072/ITA	Coping with Water Scarcity – The Role of Agriculture - Developing National Water Audits in Africa 2009 – 2012 Budget: USD 2 000 000	GCP/MYA/011/ITA	Support to Special Rice Production Programme (SRPP) in Ayeyarwady and Yangon Divisions in Myanmar 2009 – 2012 Budget: USD 1 250 000
GCP/INT/092/ITA	Development of Water Harvesting Techniques for Agriculture on a Small Scale, in Burkina Faso and Tunisia 2011 – 2013 Budget: USD 1 600 000	GCP/RAB/013/ITA	Forest Restoration in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, Using Treated Wastewater to Sustain Smallholders' and Farmers' Livelihoods 2012 – 2013 Budget: USD 600 000
GCP/INT/099/ITA	Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in Support of Improved Cassava Disease Management in Burundi, Kenya and Uganda 2010 – 2012 Budget: USD 500 000		



Traditional Programme Multilateral

GCP/RAF/410/ITA	Supporting Farmers and their Organizations for the Development of Semi-industrial Units in Food Processing to Reduce Poverty and Food Insecurity 2008 – 2012 Budget: USD 797 780
GCP/RAS/244/ITA	Collaborative, Subregional, Environmental Animal Health Management Initiative for Enhanced Smallholder Production in South-East Asia 2009 – 2013 Budget: USD 2 700 000
GCP/SYR/011/ITA	Institutional Development of Organic Agriculture in Syria 2005 – 2012 Budget: USD 1 999 823
GCP/SYR/012/ITA	Integrated and Community-based Fire Management in Syria 2009 – 2012 Budget: USD 1 099 963
GCP/VIE/029/ITA	Integrated Management of Lagoon Activities in Thua Thien and Hue Province, Vietnam 2005 – 2012 Budget: USD 3 340 490
GCP/VIE/035/ITA	Market-oriented Agroforestry to Reduce Poverty in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam 2008 – 2012 Budget: USD 1 700 000

GCP/LEB/020/ITA	Lebanese National Observatory for Agricultural and Rural Development 2009 – 2012 Budget: USD 1 474 151
GCP/LEB/021/ITA	Strengthening Production and Marketing of Lebanese Agricultural Products 2009 – 2012 Budget: USD 2 888 187
GCP/MOZ/078/ITA	Coastal Fisheries Development for Gaza and Inhambane Provinces, Mozambique 2008 – 2012 Budget: USD 4 121 692
GCP/MOZ/082/ITA	Preparation of an Agricultural Statistics Master Plan and Development of the Agricultural Statistics System, Mozambique 2010 – 2012 Budget: USD 561 885
GCP/MYA/012/ITA	Support to the Immediate Rehabilitation of Farming, Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Livelihoods in the Cyclone Nargis-affected Areas, Myanmar 2009 – 2012 Budget: USD 2 785 515
GCP/RAB/012/ITA	Regional Master Plan on Water Sharing for the Mesopotamian Basin 2012 – 2015 Budget: USD 4 538 235

Italian Contribution to FAO Global Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety

GTFS/BGD/041/ITA	Food Security through Enhanced Agricultural Production, Diversified Sources of Income, Value Addition and Marketing in Bangladesh 2010 – 2014 Budget: USD 2 954 210
GTFS/DRK/005/ITA	Support to the Implementation of National Programme for Food Security in North Korea 2012 – 2013 Budget: USD 800 000
GTFS/ETH/067/ITA	Crop Diversification and Marketing Development Project in Ethiopia 2005 – 2012 Budget: USD 4 000 000
GTFS/GAM/025/ITA	Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture (FSCA), the Gambia 2009 – 2012 Budget: USD 1 963 395
GTFS/GBS/028/ITA	Diversification, Intensification and Valorization of Local Agriculture (DIVA) in Oio and Bafata Areas, Guinea Bissau 2008 – 2012 Budget: USD 1 485 951
GTFS/GUI/019/ITA	Diversification, Intensification and Valorization of Local Agriculture (DIVA) in the District of Kindia, Guinea 2010 – 2012 Budget: USD 1 985 662
GTFS/INT/907/ITA	Controlling Transboundary Animal Diseases in Central Asian Countries 2004 – 2012 Budget: USD 6 747 124
GTFS/LIR/010/ITA	Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture (FSCA), Liberia 2008 – 2012 Budget: USD 2 234 125
GTFS/MLI/030/ITA	Support to Farmer-based Organizations in the Dogon Plateau for the Improvement of Vegetable Crops in Mali 2008 – 2012 Budget: USD 4 199 770



GTFS/RAF/391/ITA	Improvement of Food Security in Cross-border Districts of Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and The Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Support of the Modernization of Agriculture under NEPAD/CAADP Framework 2006 – 2013 Budget: USD 8 908 419
GTFS/RAF/426/ITA	Inter-Country Project Coordination for Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture (FSCA) in West Africa: GTFS/SEN/060/ITA, GTFS/MLI/030/ITA, GTFS/GAM/025/ITA, GTFS/GBS/028/ITA, GTFS/GUI/019/ITA, GTFS/SIL/028/ITA and GTFS/LIR/010/ITA 2008 – 2012 Budget: USD 2 312 055
GTFS/RAF/465/ITA	Strengthening Capacity of the Selected Member Countries of the East African Community (EAC) in Agricultural Statistics for Food Security 2012 – 2014 Budget: USD 1 000 000
GTFS/REM/070/ITA	Regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme in the Near East 2004 – 2013 Budget: USD 8 609 371
GTFS/RLA/141/ITA	Promoting CARICOM/CARIFORUM Food Security 2003 – 2012 Budget: USD 8 900 900
GTFS/RLA/172/ITA	Strengthening Subregional Mechanism to Support Eradication of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) in the Member Countries of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) 2010 – 2013 Budget: USD 1 750 000



Italy/FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme (Co-funded projects Regions and Local Authorities/IFDCP)

- GTFS/RLA/176/ITA** Improving Efficiency, Food Quality and Safety Standards of the Selected Agrifood Chains in Central America: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua
2011 – 2014
Budget: USD 5 908 419
- GTFS/SEN/060/ITA** Support to Farmer-based Organizations for the Development of Promising Sectors in Senegal
2008 – 2012
Budget: USD 3 359 688
- GTFS/SIL/028/ITA** Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture (FSCA), Sierra Leone
2008 – 2012
Budget: USD 3 512 547
- GTFS/UGA/022/ITA** Promotion of Commercialization of Agriculture among Resettling Populations in Gulu and Lira Districts of Northern Uganda to Restore Livelihoods and Reduce Poverty
2012 – 2014
Budget: USD 1 300 000

- GDCP/BKF/002/ITA** Support to Integrated Development of the Municipality of Dori, Burkina Faso
2012 – 2015
Budget: USD 600 000
- GDCP/LEB/001/ITA** Development of Water Management in the Caza of Marjayoun, Lebanon
2011 – 2013
Budget: USD 900 000
- GDCP/RWA/014/MUL** Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture in Kigali, Rwanda - Phase II
2004 – 2012
Budget: USD 1 102 802
- GDCP/SEN/002/ITA** Consolidation of Micro-gardens at Household Level in Support of Food Security and Improved Nutrition in Dakar, Senegal - Phase II
2006 – 2013
Budget: USD 1 045 000

The FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme

2012 PROJECTS PROFILE



SUPPORT TO IMPROVEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SMALL LIVESTOCK IN PERI-URBAN AREAS OF BURKINA FASO



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional Programme
Recipient country
Burkina Faso
Contribution
USD 549 745 (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2009-2012

OBJECTIVE

The goal is to combat poverty and food insecurity by creating sustainable employment in rural and peri-urban areas of Burkina Faso, for youth and women, with the support of decentralized cooperation.

The project also intends to contribute to the integration of the country into the context of the subregional Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) and West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) through the development of complementary economic activities among the Member States.

Between 2005 and 2010, the Italian Cooperation funded in Niger the first phase of project GCP/NER/044/ITA “Promotion of Decentralized Cooperation in Niger in the Field of Animal Products and Livestock Industries”, with the technical assistance of FAO. The results of this project have been described as very satisfactory by the communities involved in the implementation.

Thus, this initiative has been formulated to replicate successful experiences, by creating economic alternatives in selected villages of Burkina Faso and generate significant revenues through the implementation of microbusiness in the livestock sector by actively involving young people.

BENEFICIARIES

About 1 000 families have benefited from the project through the creation of about 200 microbusiness activities, generating additional income, and increasing their production capacity and overall livelihood standards. Young people are engaged in their homeland and immigrants are beginning to invest in the villages.



STRATEGY

The project is utilizing a participatory approach involving groups of farmers at community level. Microcredit initiatives have been promoted through grants to groups of farmers, but based on individual returns, for the implementation of participatory activities. Those activities, implemented with the support of NGOs and/or local support services in the area of intervention, guarantee a close monitoring and an active participation.

The strategy has allowed the following actions:

- Development of an operational plan for the improvement and sustainable management of livestock in peri-urban areas;
- Reduction of the costs to animal production; support to processing, marketing, distribution of products; support of technical services for a wider dissemination of technologies and organization of production at local level;
- Creation and strengthening of the necessary synergies between groups of women and youth in rural and urban areas and creation of partnerships with the private sector to ensure the economic sustainability of the activities;
- Changes in mindset from traditional livestock raising to market oriented production of small animals and their products;
- Involvement of other stakeholders, such as the Italian decentralized institutions, civil society, NGOs and other concerned development agencies in order to ensure sustainable and widespread local development.

RESULTS

The impact of the project covers four main areas:

- Social impact: increasing the incomes of producers while reducing poverty and strengthening the social role of youth and women; the project intends to support the emergence of new social groups, such as producers who are able to access markets; job creation to prevent youth from migrating to cities or overseas.
- Economic impact: improving the management of farms for better productivity and higher quality products; introducing new production techniques, knowledge exchange for good agricultural practices and preservation of natural resources; gradual modernization of production systems; the nutritional situation of the beneficiaries is expected to improve.
- Political impact: consolidating the awareness of people and their capacities to organize themselves in associations/groups to be able to gain new opportunities.
- Environmental impact: collaborating with the initiatives of other projects already funded in peri-urban areas of Bobo Dioulasso and Nouna, in order to contribute to an overall ecological impact.

STRENGTHENING FRUIT AND CACTUS PEAR PRODUCTION IN TIGRAY AND NORTH WOLLO, ETHIOPIA



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional Programme
Recipient country
Ethiopia
Contribution
USD 2 650 073
(Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2007-2012

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective is to promote food security and reduce poverty in populations living in drought-prone areas by diversifying cropping patterns, promoting drought-resistant crops and alternative income-generating products, through both a better production of quality fruits for local and export markets, and crop management of cactus pear at community level.

Ethiopia is almost totally dependent on agriculture, with 95 percent of its population engaged in the cultivation of cereals and staple crops on very small land holding per farmer (average of less than one hectare). High demographic pressure has led to an increased exodus of the rural population towards urban areas, and due to low productivity, most poor farmers are net buyers of food. For this reason, it is essential to boost their income because of the recent rapid rise of essential food commodity prices. Therefore, there is a need to shift from the traditional staple-based farming system to a diversified production with the introduction of horticultural crops and fruit trees.

For the past two years, FAO has provided technical guidance for fruit production in the First Phase of the GCP/ETH/073/ITA project, which was successfully completed in 2010, and provided very effective groundwork for the fruit development programme planned within the five years governmental agricultural strategy. The second phase of the project supports the Bureaus of Agriculture and Rural Development (BoARDs) in the Tigray and Amhara Regions, to improve fruit tree and cactus pear production.

BENEFICIARIES

- The direct beneficiaries of this project are about 3 000 households and a total of 15 000 people;
- The immediate short and medium-term beneficiaries will be Ethiopian fruit growers who will see an increase in production and diversification in revenue. The project will lead to a significant increase in the incomes of participating families and a diversification/improvement in their diet as well as that of consumers;

- The private sector and local market retailers, as well as exporters of horticultural products, will also benefit from this intervention;
- Other project beneficiaries will be national research and development institutions, scientists, technicians, farmers and individuals who will be trained in all aspects of fruit tree management.

STRATEGY

The second phase follow-up will target three main specific objectives:

- Capacity building of BoARDs;
- Transfer of technologies to farmers to improve their know-how on fruit tree and cactus pear management;
- Improve post-harvest handling for both fruit and cactus pear.

The project aims at strengthening the production of good quality fruit trees by improving the product through appropriate post-harvest handling and conservation and by encouraging the farmers to market their products.

RESULTS

The first phase of the project, which achieved encouraging results, has moved on to a second phase to consolidate technical support to the country on fruit tree development. Assistance is also given to the regional authorities involved in the preparation of a more comprehensive programme of transfer of technologies to farmers and the creation of new market opportunities especially for cactus pear.

The results are focused on:

- Training of farmers on crop production technologies, to strengthen the knowledge and skills in order to produce healthy and high quality fruit tree production;
- Establishment of fruit and cactus pear nurseries;
- Improving post-harvest handling and promoting market opportunities to facilitate marketing of fruit and cactus pear;
- Capacity Building to strengthen the technical capacity of communities in the project area

SUPPORTING FARMERS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEMI-INDUSTRIAL UNITS IN FOOD PROCESSING TO REDUCE POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional Programme

Recipient countries
Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo

Contribution
USD 797 780
(Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2008-2012

OBJECTIVE

As part of the strategy to reduce poverty and food insecurity in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo the promotion of local agriculture at community level proves to be an appropriate approach. The project aims to enable technical and economic actors in Farmers' Organizations, with organizational and managerial skills and sufficient knowledge of local food processing activity, by strengthening the capacity of small-scale semi-industrial food processing enterprises. This will increase incomes, improve the nutrition of local populations, and thereby help reduce poverty and vulnerability of rural areas.

The project is a follow-up to the project GCP/INT/848/ITA "*Institutional strengthening of the basic network of rural organizations and of rural platforms in the fight against desertification and poverty in Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger*", which has improved the experience and mechanisms for collaboration with farmer organizations in this region.

BENEFICIARIES

Direct beneficiaries are Farmer-based Organizations, national and regional platforms. Final beneficiaries are farmers, small-scale food producers and processors (in particular women) and their communities.



STRATEGY

The project strategy is built around two main criteria:

- Capacity building on technical, economic and organizational issues for food processing units at local level to increase and diversify the supply of processed products and improve marketing and economical sustainability;
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue (Farmer-based Organizations, NGOs, local authorities), through the creation of national *fora*, to guarantee information sharing and local expertise to support small-scale food processing enterprises in rural areas.

RESULTS

- The creation of 20 small, semi-industrial community-based units, to increase and diversify the supply of processed food products;
- Enhanced capacity of national platforms to support the development of small semi-industrial food processing units at community level to disseminate their experiences;
- Creation of national *fora* to ensure information sharing and exchange of experiences, to guarantee synergies and eventually additional funding to sustain the project.

INTEGRATED DAIRY SCHEME DEVELOPMENT IN HERAT PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional
Programme
Recipient country
Afghanistan
Contribution
USD 4 000 000
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2007-2012

OBJECTIVE

The general goal is to improve food security in Herat by raising the productive capacity of the local livestock sector, through improvements in livestock husbandry and feeding, sound livestock health practices, and access to domestic markets for livestock products.

Livestock is an essential part of the integrated farming system in Afghanistan. It is an important element of local economy, both for home consumption as well as for sale of products. Recent investigations made by FAO have shown that for a large proportion of the rural population, bovine milk production for sale and local consumption is seen as an important income generation opportunity.

Therefore, the project will focus on the development of integrated dairy schemes in Herat Province. Through training and supply of basic inputs, it will assist dairy farmers in the target areas to improve both efficiency and scale of dairy production. The project aims also at developing marketing facilities and organizational structures for the sustainable future management of the dairy schemes.

On the basis of the experience with Integrated Dairy Schemes in Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif and Kunduz, the Governor of Herat Province requested FAO to develop a specific programme to assist local farmers, particularly women, to increase milk production, improving and upgrading dairy farming practices and conditions in order to be able to produce safe and hygienic milk. Thus, the project input will result in improved income generation, generation of employment at local level, and will help towards improving food security in the country.

BENEFICIARIES

The immediate target beneficiaries of the project are about 1 100 dairy families from the districts of the Herat Province (Guzerah, Enjil, Pashtun Zarghun, Kaharuk and Herat). The project will involve groups of families, small livestock owners, with one or two cows, landless families and sharecroppers. The project specifically targets local authorities and women by providing technical assistance and inputs in milk production, feed supply and animal health.

STRATEGY

The project targets the rural areas where the poorest live in Afghanistan. It will link poor rural producers to local urban markets and ensure modest but regular returns to small dairy producers.

The project will provide training for production inputs and link farmers and groups with local input service providers. This will be achieved by the creation of independent associations for the management of the dairy scheme. Staff from the central authorities of Afghanistan and FAO will jointly guide and support this process which will be gradually implemented over the lifetime of the FAO project, in order to increase milk production, address market demands, add value and give sustainably to the increase in incomes of dairy enterprises.

The strategy to be adopted will allow:

- Improved production and efficiency of milk production by developing a commercial dairy production system in selected locations in Herat province;
- Develop and make functional milk collection from producers, processing and marketing structures for milk and dairy products for the Herat Dairy Scheme;
- Create and develop sustainable organizational structures for the management of the Herat Dairy Scheme.

RESULTS

- The project inputs result in improved income, increase in employment at local level, and improved food security in general;
- In particular, the project activities are leading to an improved and more efficient production of milk in selected locations in Herat Province, resulting in improved income for producers, who can sell better on local markets;
- Functional milk collection, processing and marketing structures for milk and dairy products established within the Herat Integrated Dairy Scheme;
- Sustainable organizational structures set up for the future management of the Herat Dairy Scheme.

IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY MEAT FOR CONSUMERS IN MONGOLIA



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional Programme
Recipient country
Mongolia
Contribution
USD 520 000
(Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2011-2013

OBJECTIVE

The project intends to improve overall food security by investing in the meat subsector, which has a very important role in the Mongolian economy. Its development will contribute to improve nutrition, create employment, and increase rural incomes, helping the country to meet the Millennium Development Goal 1 of halving poverty and the number of undernourished people by the year 2015.

Mongolia has a unique meat production system which is well known for its high quality products free from contaminants. Over the millennia, livestock has proved to be the most efficient way to convert the richness of the vast grass plains into food for the people of Mongolia. Livestock products play a key role in food security and the livelihoods of the people of Mongolia. Meat is particularly important due to its rich nutrient and protein content. Livestock also provides earnings in terms of milk (for household food security), cashmere and hides.

Even though Mongolia's meat and milk production is self-sufficient for its domestic consumption, the volume of properly processed meat and milk products for the markets is relatively low. Factors influencing this situation include: the lack of adequate government policy within the sector; a lack of financial and capital resources for local producers; and underdevelopment of the sector for the external market. Therefore, the need and rationale of the National Mongolian Livestock Programme is to intensify implementation efforts in the development of this sector.

BENEFICIARIES

Target beneficiaries are livestock farmers, consumers, communities and technical staff of local institutions involved in project activities.

STRATEGY

To promote the sustainable development of a high value meat sector, the strategy adopted will aim at:

- Improving meat quality and the application of food safety management systems (GMP and HACCP safety and quality standards) throughout the meat chain;
- Increasing consumer awareness and mobilizing consumer interest to support improvements in meat quality.
- Increase national technical knowledge and start a study on the value of meat production to identify key constraints and recommend the most cost efficient interventions to improve value chain efficiencies and organization.

RESULTS

- An inter-ministerial working group will be set up to increase and coordinate the development of a national food safety and quality certification system;
- A national multimedia campaign will be delivered to mobilize consumer concern to drive improvements in meat quality at industry level;
- Fifteen meat processing enterprises will be set up and 15 slaughter houses will be set up, following safety standards and equipped with all the necessary equipment;
- Training sessions will be delivered for over 500 industry stakeholders and study tours will be organized;
- Training and information material will be published and distributed.

SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE LIVELIHOODS IN COASTAL MANGROVE ECOSYSTEMS, MYANMAR



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional Programme
Recipient country
Myanmar
Contribution
USD 1 250 000
(Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2009-2012

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of participating communities and support institutions in the target areas of the Ayeyarwady Delta, to jointly plan and manage sustainable mangrove ecosystems, setting up small-scale aquaculture and fisheries activities.

Although the Ayeyarwady Delta once supported 46 percent of the mangrove forests in the country, the continued loss of these forests is a major concern. This has also caused a wide range of impacts including increased vulnerability of local communities, natural disasters such as flooding during storms and cyclones, and the damage of the Cyclone Nargis, in May 2008, is still evident in some areas. The mangrove ecosystem is a natural protector from these catastrophes, and it is a natural habitat for a vast aquatic biodiversity.

The purpose of the project is that local communities, government entities and NGOs could develop a shared management for their mangrove and fishery associated resources.

BENEFICIARIES

The project targets about 1 500 impoverished rural households and vulnerable groups such as poor, female-headed households, dependent on rural activities, homestead gardening, seasonal fishing, and gathering of forest products for their basic livelihoods. The beneficiaries represent landless, marginal farmers and fisherfolk coming from remote and inaccessible communities of the Ayeyarwady Delta, who have lost most or all of their livelihood assets as a result of the degraded mangrove forest. These people will benefit from improved and more secure access to forest and fishery resources, and from reduced losses and increased quality in fishery products.

The project will also benefit indirectly an unquantifiable number of households, processors and traders through increased food production and enhanced opportunities for income generating activities within the communities. The activities are implemented in small and isolated areas of mangrove forest in the coastal zone of Bogale and Pyapon Townships of Ayeyarwady Division in Cyclone Nargis-affected areas.



STRATEGY

The project puts strong emphasis on capacity building of stakeholders and strategy development:

- Capacity building: the capacity of officials, managers and technicians from stakeholder organizations (local authorities, Government departments, NGOs, CBOs and the private sector) and community leaders would be strengthened in order to support project interventions as well as developing policies and strategies for long-term mangrove protection and rehabilitation;
- Government assistance: to initiate a supportive framework for mangrove management and utilization through lessons learned from pilot community-based co-management plans.
- Farmers and fisherfolk support: they are organized and trained in groups, e.g. crop production, irrigation, fishing and fish farming. The beneficiaries are identified through a community election process with facilitation support from NGOs and CBOs.

RESULTS

The project supports farmers and fisherfolk to adopt a sustainable approach towards mangrove forest protection to improve household food production, nutritional levels and income generating opportunities.

The expected results are:

- Capacity building of about 10 participating communities in the Delta area and of local institutions, in order to jointly manage and plan integration of fisheries and aquaculture systems within mangrove ecosystems;
- Formulation and promotion of better community-based practices and sustainable exploitation of mangrove ecosystems;
- Improving post-harvest processing activities and market access for fishery products at community level;
- Reducing the vulnerability of local communities.

SUPPORT TO SPECIAL RICE PRODUCTION PROGRAMME (SRPP) IN AYEYARWADY AND YANGON DIVISIONS, MYANMAR



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional Programme
Recipient country
Myanmar
Contribution
USD 1 250 000
(Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2009-2012

OBJECTIVE

The project aims to improve land use practices, increase food production, reduce production costs, add value to basic local commodities (through group and community-based agroprocessing and marketing) and protect local environment (by reducing water pollution and soil erosion) for 1 800 marginal and smallholder farmers.

The project activities are implemented in Bogale, Hinthada, Labutta and Pyapon areas of Ayeyarwady Division, badly affected by the Cyclone Nargis in 2008; and in Thazi and Yamethin in Mandalay Division affected by drought; and also in Kalaw in South Shan State.

Myanmar is a surplus producer of rice on a national basis, but of its 14 divisions and states, many are in deficit, requiring a smooth flow of rice from surplus areas. Natural causes, such as drought, floods, pest infestation and limited agriculture and financial inputs are the main risks to regional food security in the country. Moreover, Cyclone Nargis caused widespread destruction and a larger number of water supplies were contaminated, food and seed stocks damaged or destroyed. Damage was most severe in the Ayeyarwady Delta region, also known as the country's *rice bowl*, destroying the harvesting of the so-called *dry season crop* which accounts for 25 percent of the annual production in the affected area.

This dry zone is considered one of the poorest areas of the country, with chronic food deficit caused by natural disasters and shortage of water, lack of farming input and access to land.

BENEFICIARIES

Project activities target 1 850 food insecure rural heads of households in the selected communities, among them poor and female-headed households dependent on subsistence farming and homestead gardening for their basic livelihood. The capacity of more than 100 service providers and community leaders from stakeholder organizations (local authorities, Government departments, NGOs, CBOs

and the private sector) would be strengthened in order to develop community-driven policies, improve production, processing and marketing of agricultural products and environmentally friendly techniques through participatory research and extension approach.

STRATEGY

The project is part of an overall FAO/Italy strategy in the country, in support of food security and livelihood rehabilitation strategies in areas affected by Cyclone Nargi and also in drought-affected areas. The project activities are implemented in collaboration with other Italian funded projects (GCP/MYA/010/ITA and GCP/MYA/012/ITA), details of which are included in this book.

The strategy adopted for the project is focused on community-driven development to improve rural livelihoods and enhance agricultural productivity and diversification, through:

- The use of participatory research and extension processes such as Farmer Field Schools (FFS) to promote, demonstrate and disseminate improved technologies and practices appropriate to climate change and suited to the soil/drainage conditions of those areas;
- Community self-identification and selection of beneficiaries, monitoring and evaluation;
- Provision of production inputs such as improved seeds and natural fertilizers and directly linked to demonstrations on the use of new technologies;
- Delivery of project inputs and equipment through the involvement of farming organizations.

RESULTS

The project has four key outputs:

- Sustain intensified production in the Ayeyarwady Delta and central upland zone of Myanmar: screening and multiplying improved rice varieties through adaptive yield trials, provision for new varieties, farm machinery supply and support, training to farmers through farmer field schools organized at frontline demonstration sites, establishment of seed villages, support to women's groups in post-harvest operations;
- Rehabilitation and sustained operation of water harvesting and small-scale irrigation projects in the central dry zone of Myanmar, through rehabilitation and expansion of community-owned shallow tube wells and water tanks, micro-watershed management etc.;
- Capacity building, empowerment, institutional strengthening and sustainability of CBOs: through establishment/strengthening of CBOs such as farmer groups and association for water management, management training and exchange visits etc.;
- Effective partnerships between stakeholder organizations: coordination of partner organizations and dissemination of best practices, training material and information.

COLLABORATIVE, SUBREGIONAL, ENVIRONMENTAL ANIMAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE FOR ENHANCED SMALLHOLDER PRODUCTION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional
Programme

Recipient countries
Cambodia, Lao and
Philippines, plus
Myanmar and Vietnam
(January 2012–
June 2013)

Contribution
USD 2 700 000
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2009–2013

OBJECTIVE

The project objective is to promote an interdisciplinary, holistic approach to animal health management for enhanced, environmentally friendly forms of livestock production, including: integrated animal disease management, improved animal husbandry and farm management practices, and a more balanced use of natural resources, to reduce the risks of disease transmission from animal to animal, and from animals to people.

The project is based on the concept of Environmental Animal Health Management (EAHM), equivalent to Environmental Health in human medical science, and builds on the experience of the FAO/Italian funded project GCP/PHI/050/ITA in the Philippines from 2005 to 2008, with a wider mandate to consolidate previous achievements and support the implementation of Integrated Animal Disease Management strategies in the Philippines, and extend the geographical coverage of its activities to selected countries in South-east Asia.

The project GCP/RAS/244/ITA was extended from the Philippines to include Cambodia and Lao from 2009 to 2011, and focused on achieving the following outputs:

- Improved capacity to analyse animal disease risk, and apply strategies on environmental animal health management both at institutional and field implementation levels;
- Advocacy for Environmental Animal Health Management (EAHM), as a core element in animal production and health services in the Philippines;
- Establishment of a technical/scientific dialogue and network for information exchange and dissemination with Cambodia and Lao.



During a subregional review workshop in April 2011, Myanmar and Vietnam expressed their interest in joining the EAHM network, and with additional funding from Italy, the two countries became members in January 2012. This expansion focuses on capacity building approach and institutional strengthening to promote harmonization and standardization of animal production and health information collection and reporting both within and between project partners.

BENEFICIARIES

The ultimate beneficiaries of the project are smallholder livestock and poultry farmers in rural areas, commercial producers and end consumers. The project will result in an enabling environment for livestock production, ensuring producers with increased productivity and assuring consumers that food safety standards are met.

Other beneficiaries are veterinary services and partner institutions involved with EAHM, as their capacities for data collection, management and analysis are strengthened for better informed policy formulation and implementation.

STRATEGY

This project while focusing on disease data gathering, management and analysis, develop capacities needed to enhance animal production and health policy decisions benefiting smallholder livestock farmers, who often have limited access to veterinary services.

The project aims at producing information on the impact and spread of disease at environmental, agro-ecological and public health levels.

To this end, the capacity of infrastructures and of national and local staff must be strengthened. Networks are expected to be formed to exchange information at all levels, involving other ministries and their departments, such as health, education, environment, trade, statistics and geographical mapping.

RESULTS

The expected outcome of the project is to promote a regional interdisciplinary, holistic approach to animal health management for enhanced, environmentally friendly forms of livestock production, including: integrated animal disease management, improved animal husbandry and farm management practices and balanced use of natural resources, aimed at reducing disease transmission risks from animal to animal and animals to people.

The following specific outputs are expected:

- Capacity to analyse animal disease risk and to develop environmental management strategies for animal health, as core elements in animal production and health services in the Philippines;



- Capacity to analyse animal disease risk and develop and apply strategies on environmental animal health management, to be further strengthened and applied in selected priority areas in Cambodia and Lao;
- Capacity for database management, analysis and application of GIS (Geographical Information System) to implement environmental animal health management strategies in Myanmar and Vietnam are developed and strengthened;
- Technical/scientific and policy dialogue and network for information exchange and dissemination with the participating countries are established, with the Philippines given a coordinating role and the further use of environmental animal health management strategies in animal production and health are thereby promoted;
- National institutions and stakeholders networked and poor livestock keepers empowered and enabled to participate in the policy decision-making process of their respective countries.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF LAGOON ACTIVITIES IN THUA THIEN AND HUE PROVINCES, VIETNAM



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional Programme
Recipient country
Vietnam
Contribution
USD 3 340 490
(Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2005–2012

OBJECTIVE

The project objective is to develop a programme of Integrated Management for Lagoon Activities (IMOLA) in the Tam Giang-Cau Hai lagoon in Thua Thien, Hue provinces (Central Vietnam).

The project aims at providing support to people living in the lagoon system, to improve their livelihoods through the participatory sustainable management of the hydro-biological resources, in accordance with the socio-economic systems of the community and in particular of women.

Every year, during the months of October and November, in the middle of the Tropical Monsoon season, Central Vietnam, in particular the Thua Thien Hue province has to cope with severe flooding. Fisheries, aquaculture and many other activities are paralyzed for several weeks. Most people who live in the area are largely dependent on the activities they can carry out on the lagoon, such as aquaculture (shrimp, seaweed, and carp), fishing and tourism. However, all these activities, in addition to the frequent flooding, put a high pressure on the lagoon system and the natural resources it offers. The uncontrolled construction of shrimp ponds and the establishment of fixed gears have led to a decrease in available natural resources, contributing to the ever increasing vulnerability of the local ecosystem. This situation has made it essential to diversify production.

BENEFICIARIES

- People living on and around the lagoons;
- Aquaculturists;
- Fisherfolk;
- Fishery traders;
- Governmental agencies and zootechnical institutions.

STRATEGIES

- Assessment of the impacts of the yearly floods which may have a negative effect on food security;
- Monitoring of the status of hydro-biological resources and the level of pressure from capture, pollution and water use;
- Monitoring of hydro-chemical parameters and the impact of aquaculture on hydro-biological resources;
- Environment and hydro-biological survey (physico-chemical conditions, hydro-biological resources assessment, habitat inventory and conditions, pollutant distribution);
- Identification of strategies and policies required to improve economical diversification, reducing continued pressure on the lagoon environment;
- Assessment of legal protection aspects of lagoon aquaculture and fishery management, with reference to limit open-access to the biological resources;
- Use of a gender approach. Active participation of women in all the activities foreseen and implemented through the project;
- Adoption of a participatory method to involve local communities actively in the management of their resources;
- Fishery and aquaculture census to determine current exploitation levels in the lagoon identifying integrated management systems for the lagoon and opportunities for aquaculture development in the lagoon;
- Technical collaboration with Italian universities: the Polytechnic University of Marche (Ancona), the Centre for Geotechnologies of the University of Siena. Furthermore, technical collaboration is ongoing with the University of Hue, (Vietnam) the Water Resources University, Hanoi, (Vietnam) and research institutions (IMER, Haiphong, RIMF Haiphong, etc.).

RESULTS

- An Integrated Management Plan for the lagoon will be drafted, in a participatory manner, including an implementing strategy at all levels, capacity building, as well as identification of credit, savings, organizational needs and investment requirements;
- An Aquaculture Master Plan will be drafted in collaboration with Provincial stakeholders, for enactment by the competent Provincial People's Committee;
- The population living near and on the lagoon will have an increased awareness of the state of the hydro-biological resources and on how they could participate meaningfully in the sustainable management of the resources;
- Investment and credit/saving opportunities will have been identified for fisherfolk, aquaculturists and fish traders that will contribute to the sustainable use of the resources and at the same time, to the quality of the lagoon production;
- Grass-root organizations of fisherfolk and aquaculturists will be established and those existing will be strengthened to increase the sustainability of the lagoon resource management through enactment of participatory methods;
- Co-management of the lagoon bio-resources will be enacted through empowerment of Fishery Associations recognized by the Government;
- Access to biological lagoon resources will be regulated by the issuance of fishing rights to Fishery Associations and fishery activities will be rationalized through planning of water surface, demarcation of functional zones and enforcing of monitoring, surveillance and control routines;
- Development of a database using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and a mapping system for bio-physical data generated by the project;

- Creation and dissemination of training materials and methodology for Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Sustainable Livelihood Analysis, along with other training materials related to aquaculture practices, food processing, marketing and GIS use;
- Establishment of a web site with access to all project reports, training materials, management plans and links to other relevant sites (www.imolahue.org);
- Dissemination of findings and results on a national and international basis, to replicate the experience in other regions following the example of the IMOLA project, and also to attract interest from other donors and development agencies in supporting this initiative.

The Project received co-financing through the **FAO/Italy Decentralized Cooperation Programme** (USD 200 000), from the Veneto Region and the Foundation Cá Vendramin, Italy (USD 150 000) which involved Venetian consortium, research institutes and the Italian Touring Club, to carry out the following activities:

- Application of surveying technologies and automated methods of detection of environmental parameters, for implementing environmental monitoring and hydrological lagoon modelling;
- Aquaculture and shrimp farming in compliance with quality standards, environment protection and safety. Rationalization of production of fish and aquatic-commodities;
- Piloting activities in the lagoon of Tam Nong in Thua Thien Hue. Development and promotion of income-generating activities outside agriculture and fishery sectors (product manufacturing and rural tourism);
- Continued support for co-management of the Sam Chuon lagoon in the Phu Vang District.

MARKET-ORIENTED AGROFORESTRY TO REDUCE POVERTY IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE, VIETNAM



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional
Programme

Recipient country
Vietnam

Contribution
USD 1 700 000
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2008–2012

OBJECTIVE

The project goal is to reduce poverty in the rural areas and help promote conservation of natural resources through development of sustainable, market-oriented agroforestry systems.

The immediate objectives are: to develop sustainable, market-oriented systems for agroforestry products; to help farmers develop agroforestry-based enterprises and improve marketing of agroforestry products; to improve farmer access to capital through microfinance and other credit programs.

This project is an extension phase of the previous project GCP/VIE/027/ITA “Capacity Building, Extension, Demonstration and Support for the Development of Market-oriented Agroforestry in Quang Nam Province”. The aim is to assist the Government reforestation program while, at the same time, providing economic benefits to the rural people in Quang Nam Province.

Experience in Phase I showed that improved management of agroforestry significantly increases production and income from the sale of agroforestry products. However, most poor households are constrained by unemployment and lack of inputs for income generating activities. The project will give them priority assistance through the provision of seedlings and fertilizer. A microfinance program will be organized to give these farmers more access to the capital required in farm and enterprise development. The project aims also at strengthening markets by providing farmers with accurate market information, better access and linkages with market outlets, and better marketing strategies.

BENEFICIARIES

- Farmers, including women and their families who decide to use agroforestry systems to develop their farmlands. Benefits would include: i) higher farm productivity, better food security and increased income from sale of higher value products such as wood and fruits; ii) enhanced knowledge and skills in managing agroforest gardens, and marketing of products.

- Government staff at commune, district and provincial level who participate in the project implementation and some of the capacity building activities, will increase their understanding of the principles and technical know-how of managing sustainable, market-oriented agroforestry development to promote natural resources conservation and poverty reduction.
- Agroforestry based enterprises that would have more stable supply of needed raw materials.
- Residents of the local communities who will benefit from the expected environmental impacts of reforesting degraded lands such as reduced soil erosion, water conservation, and biodiversity protection.

STRATEGY

- Training, provision of equipment and other capacity building activities conducted by the project will increase the farmers, processors, and traders' ability to manage high quality agroforestry systems, and the Government's capability to support them with adequate technical, managerial, and extension services;
- Support in training and initial material inputs for landowners or those applying for land tenure, through Red Book certificates which are given by the Government to incentivize farmers to adopt agroforestry development over the long term;
- Linking the project initiatives with the government's programmes, particularly the Hunger Eradication and Poverty Alleviation (HEPA), and the Five Million Hectares Reforestation Programmes. Under the Forest Development strategy (2006-2020), the Government has committed to provide support mechanisms to households engaged in agroforestry production systems, including preferential loans, supply of food products, seedlings and fertilizers. Project sustainability is further strengthened by integrating project plans and activities at commune, district and provincial level;
- Assisting farmer groups and local agroforestry entrepreneurs to establish linkages with local and tourist markets and agroforestry industries in the province of Hue and in nearby provinces to ensure better marketing of products;
- Assistance in establishing community-managed savings and credit groups that will provide alternative and sustainable sources of short-term capital for farmers;
- Support for women, who are an important component of work in the rural areas, by encouraging and giving them opportunities to participate in project activities, particularly in home and forest garden improvement, enterprise development, processing and marketing of agroforestry products (cinnamon incenses for local and tourist markets).

RESULTS

- Forests and agroforestry systems are developed in a sustainable way and market-oriented to provide higher economic benefits to rural families and degraded forestlands;
- Higher income of farmers through increased production, alternative livelihoods and better marketing of agroforestry products;
- Additional employment and income generated by agroforestry-based rural enterprises and the establishment and management of agroforestry gardens;
- Village nurseries established, raising high quality seedlings;
- Enhanced capacity of farmers to manage sustainable agroforestry systems and of local government staff familiar with participatory extension approaches;
- Improved market research and information, linking farmers to timely market prices and information;
- Formulation of equitable contractual arrangements between producer-marketing groups and buyers are developed through negotiations;

- Commodity food chains, fruits and spices and agroforestry products are developed with the aim to reach local and tourist markets;
- Market options explored and identified for linkages between producer-marketing groups and agroforestry industries, to reduce logistical transactions from the producer to the final buyer to an optimal minimum;
- Experience gained and lessons learned are shared with other FAO projects at national and regional level.

IMPROVING HOUSEHOLD FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN EGYPT BY TARGETING WOMEN AND YOUTH



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional Programme
Recipient country
Egypt
Contribution
USD 3 001 167
(Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2012–2016

OBJECTIVE

The project is designed to assist the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MoALR) and related institutions in improving the nutritional status of vulnerable communities, particularly children and youth, in disadvantaged rural districts in Upper Egypt by creating a food-secure environment in which women and youth have access to sufficient and diversified food of both animal and vegetable sources and have the necessary knowledge and skills for adequate food production. The project is based on relevant experiences and information gained by FAO projects and by the latest Government policies, aiming at reducing malnutrition and improving nutritional well-being.

Against the background of economic stagnation, as evidenced by the worsening of nutritional indicators for children, family nutrition and food security, poverty and unemployment have become a salient problem that presents an urgent need for action in Egypt.

Malnutrition perpetuates the vicious cycle of poverty, and constitutes a serious burden on Egypt's economy. Malnutrition in infancy and early childhood is a major cause of school drop outs. Furthermore, school drop out encourages child exploitation, making these defenceless street children easy victims of child labour and child trafficking. They eventually join the large number of unemployed youth.

BENEFICIARIES

The project will directly benefit:

- Poor villages in Egypt which will be selected on the basis of their poverty ranking according to the poverty map of Egypt;

- Women who will be targeted to generate the greatest impact on children's nutritional status not only because women are the immediate care-givers, but also because years of research have shown that empowering women is the key to household food security, prosperity, and a healthy environment;
- Approximately 320 youth in rural communities will be targeted by the project activities by involving 16 schools (eight boys' schools and eight girls' schools), to participate in the Junior Farmers Field Life Schools in the selected villages. The youth will be involved to improve their chances of establishing sustainable livelihoods in the future as well as to create a way to increase their incomes in a sustainable way.

STRATEGY

The methodology of the proposed project will be underpinned by community participation using a participatory approach that involves intensive networking and coordination with all relevant stakeholders including the young people's families.

The project framework places emphasis on capacity building, food related income-generating activities and on information, education and communication. Advocacy campaigns will be organized to disseminate messages regarding the health and nutrition of the young, to sensitize their families and communities.

In particular, the project will be centered on three major intervention strategies, namely:

- 1) Improving nutrition through food production and income generating activities;
- 2) Improving nutrition and nutritional behaviour in youth through education and Behaviour Change Communication (BCC), comprising mass media, interpersonal communication and social mobilization;
- 3) Capacity building and institutionalizing of integrated and participatory approaches to improve better access to food and nutritional levels for households at decentralized level.

RESULTS

- Improved food security and healthy nutritional behaviour through education and communication programs;
- Improved food security and nutritional levels through food production and income generating activities for women and youth;
- Improved capacity of local communities and government institutions at central and local levels in adopting a participative approach for food production and nutrition education for households in the most vulnerable villages.

FOREST RESTORATION IN ALGERIA, EGYPT, MOROCCO AND TUNISIA, USING TREATED WASTEWATER TO SUSTAIN SMALLHOLDERS' AND FARMERS' LIVELIHOODS



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional Programme

Recipient countries
Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia

Contribution
USD 600 000
(Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2012–2013

OBJECTIVE

The intended outcome of the project is to increase the use of treated wastewater in forestry and agroforestry production methods, in order to achieve improved quality of life for smallholders and farmers, in selected countries of the North Africa Mediterranean region.

This new comprehensive programme aims at providing a framework for more integrated, cohesive and harmonized mechanisms that will help stimulate stronger engagement and support from member countries concerned, and also mobilize additional resources.

Arid and semi-arid zones, characterized by scarcity of water and very low forest cover, are widespread across the globe, including some Mediterranean countries. In these areas water is the real limiting factor to the life and survival of local populations, and forests are still the most important source of energy for rural people.

In Mediterranean countries, however, natural woodland resources are inadequate to meet the increasing demand for forest products and services. In fact, the increase in population and the corresponding need for food lead to a huge pressure on natural resources. Climate change is also a serious threat to forest resources.

For developing countries, the need for sustainable management of forest resources represents an important tool to fight hunger and reduce poverty through the direct or indirect provision of services that help to increase farmer income.

The project builds on the network of national institutions established under the project GCP/INT/059/ITA *“Use of Treated Wastewater in Forestry and Agroforestry”*, funded by Italy over the last three years (2008 to 2011) in central Asia and the Mediterranean, to exchange experiences and transfer knowledge and technology on forestry and agroforestry practices, and on the use of treated wastewater in forestry and agroforestry systems.

BENEFICIARIES

Identified stakeholders are local communities, scientists, policy-makers, private sector, farmers and users involved in forestry and agroforestry systems; moreover, the project will involve National Poplar Commissions for the dissemination of poplar and willow culture in the Mediterranean region, research institutions and universities from both developing countries and countries with economies in transition that require knowledge and technology.

The project will pay particular attention to the needs of rural women, in particular to allow them access to marketing and commercialization of forest products such as cash crops, honey production. The project will also ensure the full participation of women in the design and decision-making related to the identification and establishment of pilot project sites.

STRATEGY

In order to overcome the shortage of water, countries have developed safe, environmentally sound and cost-efficient ways to treat municipal wastewater produced by communities and industries, and to utilize it for irrigation purposes. The reuse of wastewater resources allows recycling of nutrients for productive purposes and leads to a reduced discharge of wastewater into rivers and seas. Project activities are so organized:

- Algeria: support and maintenance of phyto-remediation plants: Oasis of Brézina, El Bayadh, established by the University of Tuscia, Italy, and design of a new phyto-remediation plant in the Oasis of Taghith;
- Morocco: designing and implementing 10 ha of the green belt of Marrakech with palm trees and areas irrigated with treated wastewater. The green belt will be protected by a buffer zone composed of planted forest species. The work will be carried out in cooperation with the local authorities and supported by the University of Basilicata, Italy, the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) and the Research Council in Agriculture, Italy (CRA);
- Egypt, Suez: prepare the forest management plan of the Ismailia planted forest, irrigated with treated wastewater, established by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Land Reclamation Undersecretariat of Afforestation. The work will be carried out with the support of the Forestry Faculty of the University of Tuscia, Italy, in technical cooperation with the Forestry Faculty of the University of Munich, Germany;
- Tunisia: prepare two small demonstration projects on the use of treated wastewater in forestry and agroforestry system, in collaboration with the Italian University of Basilicata and University of Tuscia;
- Improve field work experience through the introduction and testing of new species and varieties, in forestry and agroforestry, for different purposes: wood production, biomass, soil protection (poplars, willows, eucalyptus);
- Define the legislation framework to make the new forestry and agroforestry plantations eligible for the carbon credits market;
- Analyse and adopt the regulatory and institutional framework to increase the impact of treated wastewater in forestry and agroforestry;
- Support cooperation and exchange of information among all the project stakeholders with special reference to specialists and scientists of institutions involved in the project;



- Enhance the partnership with: the International Poplar Commission (IPC) hosted by FAO which has a prominent role in the promotion of forestry and agroforestry production systems using poplars and willows; the working group on Poplar Research of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO); the Silva Mediterranea network; the International Energy Agency (IEA), which facilitates the use of environmentally sound and cost competitive bioenergy on a sustainable basis to develop appropriate forest policies, in support of institutions and practices to address common developmental issues such as sustainable land use and sustainable forest management;
- The project will also work in close collaboration with Italian institutions and NGOs, specifically with the National Poplar Commission (NPC) of Italy, the *Corpo Forestale dello Stato* (CFS), the National Research Council of Italy (CNR), the Research Council in Agriculture (CRA), the University of Basilicata, the University of Tuscia and the NGO *Ricerca e Cooperazione*.

RESULTS

- Operational concepts for sustainable agroforestry and forestry production methods using treated wastewater are developed and nursery capacities are strengthened;
- The institutional and regulatory frameworks are improved in the project countries;
- Transfer of knowledge and technologies for poplar cultivation, production methods in forestry and agroforestry systems and the use of treated wastewater, will improve smallholders' and farmers' livelihoods.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN SYRIA



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional Programme

Recipient country
Syria

Contribution
USD 1 999 823
(Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2005-2012

OBJECTIVE

The project purpose is to strengthen and make the organic sector in Syria efficient. Phase II (2010-2013) intends to capitalize on the achievements of Phase I and to provide further institutional strengthening and technical guidance in strategic areas, in order to increase the output of certified organic agricultural production in Syria, with a progressively growing involvement of interested farmers and other private sector stakeholders.

Phase I of the project entailed: i) establishing the proper institutional framework for a coordinated and integrated development of organic farming in Syria, that includes legal aspects, capacity building and institutional build-up; ii) achieving an adequate number of properly informed and well trained technicians, scientists, decision-makers and farmer leaders, with full knowledge of all aspects of organic farming; iii) initiating a knowledge-based and market-oriented research program, that could, in a short time, provide useful guidelines to farmers wishing to adopt organic farming techniques.

The project is working towards the development and roll-out of the Syrian national policy and strategy for organic agriculture within the overall aims of helping all organic supply chain actors, so improving local living conditions, providing consumers with guaranteed products and contributing to the protection of the environment and to the enhancement of agricultural biodiversity.

BENEFICIARIES

Researchers, producers, processors and traders, technicians, scientists, decision-makers and farmer leaders who can benefit from a full knowledge of all aspects of organic farming.

STRATEGY

The proposed Phase II strategy includes actions for:

- Strengthening and expanding organic farming systems, research, training for trainers, facilitators and farmers, on selected organic farming/cropping systems using participatory extension methodologies, like Farmer Field Schools (FFS);

- Dissemination of information to main stakeholders and officials at the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Reform (MAAR);
- Identification of marketing strategies for Syrian organic products;
- Institutional capacity building for the establishment of a *Bureau for Organic Production* and other support for the development of the sector. The development of a national organic agriculture policy will provide the overarching framework for implementation of a coordinated set of initiatives involving various institutional and private sector actors.

RESULTS

- Drafting the text of a proposal for a national law defining organic farming, through a consultative process, including implementing regulations, standards and the overall institutional organization;
- Designing a *composite certification system*, in which differentiated functions are recognized between certifying bodies and the regulatory and monitoring function to be exercised by the Government;
- Creating a team of expert technicians, trainers and researchers, spanning several different national institutions and organizations, through international and in-country training, able to support the development of organic farming in the country. Furthermore, an Organic Agriculture Documentation Centre has been created at the headquarters of GCSAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research);
- Raising the awareness of consumers about the organic farmers association;
- Created qualified resource centre within the GCSAR for supporting the development of organic farming;
- Developed a web site on organic agriculture, in Arabic and English, as an interactive instrument (www.organicsyria.com);
- Involvement of all Syrian institutions concerned and national NGOs (Directorate of Extension, Directorate of Plant Production, Directorate of Plant Protection, Chamber of Agriculture, General Union of Peasants and private sector) as key actors in project implementation, in synergy with other Italian funded initiatives implemented by FAO, especially the regional IPM project GTFS/REM/070/ITA (profile can be found in this book).

INTEGRATED AND COMMUNITY-BASED FIRE MANAGEMENT IN SYRIA



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional
Programme

Recipient country
Syria

Contribution
USD 1 099 963
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2009-2012

OBJECTIVE

The goal is to strengthen policies, strategic and management plans, operational and institutional capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Reform (MAAR) to achieve greater integration and participation of local communities, to obtain better living conditions and integrated watershed and land-use approaches, to reduce the negative impacts of fire and facilitate management of forest resources on a sustainable basis.

Because of high population pressure and growing exploitation, the degradation of these forests worsened, particularly due to fires. Although there was an increasing awareness of the human, social, environmental and economic impacts of fire, it was only during the Participatory and Integrated Forest Fires Management Plan Project GCP/SYR/010/ITA (2004-2007) financed by Italy, that more people-oriented approaches were recognized and incorporated into a national and community-based Integrated Forest Fire Management (IFFM) Strategy.

The new phase (GCP/SYR/012/ITA) builds on the results achieved in the previous phase, to further strengthen the capacity and capability of the Forestry Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reforms (all levels) and local communities in integrated and community based fire management; to further expand the approaches to new regions and communities, to provide new technology, and to disseminate the implementation of the national IFFM strategy in association with watershed management.

BENEFICIARIES

The direct beneficiaries of the project are the small farmers living inside and/or close to forests in the selected pilot areas, as well as the professional and technical forestry staff of the Forestry Directorate of MAAR and the agricultural extension staff involved in project activities, both at central and provincial levels.

Indirect beneficiaries also include local NGOs and civil society entities, which will become more knowledgeable about trees and forests and their role in the ecosystem, especially in a country with such low forest cover as Syria.

STRATEGY

This Project (Phase II) will reinforce the IFFM initiative created under the GCP/SYR/010/ITA Project (Phase I), and support community management of watershed basins, giving additional institutional strengthening, capacity building, support to community-based activities, including food security interventions and technological support to reinforce the IFFM strategy.

The continuation of assistance supplied to IFFM, in addition to consolidating the results achieved through Phase 1, aims at ensuring sustainable forest resources management to benefit the livelihoods of the Syrian population, by strengthening the fire management capacity of the Forest Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reforms.

RESULTS

The ultimate outcome of the project will be the establishment of an integrated and community-based fire management system. To achieve this result, the project aims at developing:

- Community mobilization and support;
- Institutional strengthening;
- Capacity building of national staff;
- Technical support and new methodologies.

FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN AREAS



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional Programme

Contribution
USD 1 900 000
(Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2007-2012

OBJECTIVE

The target is to fight poverty and attain meaningful development of mountain areas, according to the objectives established by the Millennium Development Goals. Many of the world's poorest and most food insecure people live in mountain regions, which are some of the most fragile ecosystems on earth. Current levels of cooperation and funding for development and conservation activities in mountains are inadequate.

The project supports the Mountain Partnership Secretariat for which the central coordinating unit is hosted at FAO and works with more than 180 governments, NGOs and IGOs to promote and facilitate collaborative activities for sustainable mountain development.

Several governments, members of the Mountain Partnership, have established national multi-stakeholder committees to deal more effectively with mountain development and some have entered into legally binding conventions to deal with transboundary regional issues in mountain ecosystems (e.g. Alpine Convention, Carpathian Convention).

BENEFICIARIES

Immediate beneficiaries of the project include:

- Members of the Mountain Partnership (more than 180 governments, NGOs and IGOs) who benefit from improved and more effective collaboration through networking, information exchange and better communications to promote joint development and conservation activities in mountain regions;
- Civil society, other partner entities and institutions (GOs, IGOs, CSOs) at national, regional and global level who will be directly involved in project activities such as policy and law formulation, training and capacity building, etc.;
- Mountain communities (notably the most vulnerable, poor and food insecure populations) and ecosystems throughout the world, mainly in developing and transition countries, who benefit from improved livelihoods and food security, and more sustainable use of natural resources on which they depend;

- Populations and environments that benefit from the provision of environmental services and goods coming from mountain regions, through improved natural resource management of mountain areas.

STRATEGY

The project was designed to be a catalytic force in developing capacity among key partners to enable them to better design and implement sustainable mountain development activities, working to reinforce long-term institutional settings at regional and country level.

This will be achieved through support to members of the Mountain Partnership in activities they undertake, including:

- Advocacy activities to promote the inclusion of mountain issues in the main international political agenda and debates, such as the Rio Conventions and the Rio+20 process;
- Regional and global workshops aimed at identifying operational recommendations and proposals for concerted action on policies for mountain regions;
- Information exchange and networking actions;
- Mobilizing technical support in areas related to sustainable development in mountains, such as climate change, biodiversity, desertification, food security and poverty alleviation;
- Guidelines for practitioners on coordination and concerted action on policies for mountain regions, institutional strengthening for effective policy implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of their implementation, effectiveness and impact.

RESULTS

- Increased awareness at all levels of the importance of mountain ecosystems and populations to devote adequate resources to their development and conservation;
- A number of collaborative activities, programmes, projects, exchanges ongoing, planned or completed in the context of designated thematic, geographic and institutional Partnership initiatives;
- Environmental issues and concerns, in particular those linked to global and climate changes, effectively mainstreamed into mountain development activities;
- Strengthened capacity at various levels within mountainous countries to design and implement programmes and activities for sustainable mountain development;
- Increased sharing of information among members about their respective activities related to sustainable mountain development and better access to information regarding technical and financial resources;
- Increased levels of financial commitment by mountainous countries and the donor community, including the private sector, to carry out mountain development and conservation programmes and projects.

COPING WITH WATER SCARCITY – THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURE – DEVELOPING NATIONAL WATER AUDITS IN AFRICA



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional
Programme

Contribution
USD 2 000 000
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2009-2012

OBJECTIVE

Growing scarcity and competition for water stand as a major threat to future advances in food security and poverty alleviation, especially in rural areas. Africa uses around 85 percent of its withdrawn freshwater resources for agriculture. Therefore, a detailed assessment of agricultural water use, including its productivity, its value-in-use, and its efficiency during the water use process, gives the countries handles to adapt their water policy to cope with water scarcity and improve their water management in the future. Governments and donors are increasingly called to put in place a uniform and consistent framework to assess the impacts of water-related policy options. Moreover, decision and policy-making bodies need to have access to reliable support systems to make decisions and to base their strategies regarding water use.

The project will facilitate countries to improve their capacity to cope with water scarcity as a result of an improved knowledge of their water resources situation in general and the use of water in the agricultural sector in particular.

BENEFICIARIES

The ultimate beneficiaries will be communities, who will benefit from humanitarian and development programmes and interventions utilizing water for agricultural production more efficiently. Special emphasis will be given to the inclusion of gender-disaggregated information, since water plays an important role in the life and the tasks of women and especially rural women. The primary beneficiaries are also national and international government institutions who will benefit, through a set of decision support instruments, from improved ability to manage available water resources.

STRATEGY

The National Water Audit project provides a comprehensive methodology for assessing, analysing and reporting the use of scarce water resources that can be applied with regular intervals to monitor the state of countries' water resource base. On the supply side, the audit will provide information about the water availability. On the demand side, it will give a detailed picture, on how the water is used, for which purpose, and with which value. The project is an interregional initiative, aimed at developing a method that enables FAO's member countries in Africa to diagnose the physical and economic status of water use to support decisions concerning water policies and water resources management with a particular focus on water use in agriculture. According to the specific needs of one country in North Africa and two countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the methodology will be adapted and refined.

RESULTS

The outcome of the National Water Audit project will be that countries have a tailor made set of tools to assess the status of available water resources and their use, which will provide a sound basis for decision-making regarding options for improved water management in general, and dealing with the agricultural component of water scarcity in particular. The outputs will be the development of a general methodology, based on existing tools, for a National Water Audit to be applied in three African countries. For each of the countries it will lead to a comprehensive report that forms the basis for future country water management and water policy, and a summary report with a compilation of key options for decision-makers.

In order to ensure sustainability of the project, the Water Audits will be executed in close cooperation with the ministries involved in national water management. During the project, field campaigns and training sessions will be organized in close cooperation with ministerial staff to ensure a smooth transition and sustainability of activities.

DEVELOPMENT OF WATER HARVESTING TECHNIQUES FOR AGRICULTURE ON A SMALL SCALE, IN BURKINA FASO AND TUNISIA



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional Programme
Recipient countries
Burkina Faso and Tunisia
Contribution
USD 1 600 000
(Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2011–2013

OBJECTIVE

The project objective is to contribute to the reduction of rural poverty and food insecurity, through the improvement of the access and sustainable management of water resources, promoting small-scale water harvesting techniques in the arid areas of South Tunisia (Matmata region) and the Sahel region in Burkina Faso (Dori).

The project was formulated on the basis of the results and methodology of previous projects for soil and water conservation funded by Italy (Project GCP/TUN/028/ITA: “Soil and Water Conservation Programme in the Governorates of Kairouan, Siliana and Zaghouan in Tunisia”).

Arid areas, like the south of Tunisia and the Sahel region of Burkina Faso, are very vulnerable to the effects of climate change, in particular to rainfall variability and water scarcity. In this context, effective interventions for the conservation and sustainable use of water resources, with the direct participation of the population, are a priority for the stability of agricultural production.

BENEFICIARIES

- Farmers and rural communities in Tunisia and Burkina Faso;
- Women engaged in rural activities in Tunisia and Burkina Faso;
- National and local institutions in arid countries.

STRATEGY

- Multi-scale approach: the project intervenes at global level (through the promotion of water harvesting techniques for food security and the sustainable management of ecosystems), at national level (through the promotion of the integration of water harvesting technologies in the national development plans) and at local level (through the improvement of water harvesting techniques in two project sites in Tunisia and Burkina Faso);

- Participatory approach: the project promotes the active participation of local institutions, communities and other development partners;
- Gender perspective: the project considers the specific role of women and men with regard to water resources. The project promotes the integration of women and men in the decision-making processes and will support particular interventions to reduce women vulnerability;
- Integrated approach: the project combines different interventions to improve food security and sustainable development (improvement of water access and management, local empowerment, capacity building, development of agricultural activities). The promotion of water harvesting is a way to conserve ecosystems services, community livelihoods and cultural heritage;
- Partnership approach through the promotion of South-South cooperation between Tunisia and Burkina Faso and the establishment of agreements with local institutions, the private sector and NGOs.

RESULTS

- Study on the state and perspectives of water harvesting techniques in arid countries. This study will identify the potential of water collecting techniques to improve food security and build resilience to climate change, taking into account gender issues;
- The promotion and development of water harvesting techniques in arid zones of Burkina Faso and Tunisia.



STRATEGY

The project aims to improve food security of the most vulnerable people, through empowering groups at community level. The target is to build capacity by training both facilitators and farmers through a Field School programme, and by involving national organizations like the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) in Uganda and the Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi (ISABU), in Burundi.

The project has had an important gender component; in the rain-fed subsistence systems in East Africa, cassava is produced mainly by smallholder farmers, often women, who generally use traditional farming methods, on marginal land with poor soil fertility. Women carry out work both in the cassava production system, in weeding and maintaining cassava fields, and in post-harvest processing (peeling, grating, drying). Improving CBSD management can significantly reduce post-harvest labour and save time and money.

RESULTS

The outcome of the project has been the strengthening of farmer knowledge and skills on cassava production, including pest and disease management aspects.

- A small team of local government extension staff and associated local NGO service providers (facilitators) were trained (12 persons) and FFS cassava curricula were developed in March 2011;
- This group of facilitators then ran 40 FFS groups with a total of 1 200 participants, each with 3 ha of multiplication plots and additional study plots for conducting FFS experiments and observations comparing different practices. At the end of the season, clean planting material is being distributed (March 2012) to group members and others in the community; a further 40 groups of farmers are due to receive the next batch of clean planting material from the sites run by the field schools, so final beneficiaries will total around 3 000 farm families;
- In addition, 30 ha of multiplication fields have been set up in the district by NARO, in association with the project, which are expected to benefit a further 1 000 farm families;
- The project has also reinforced working relationships between the district local government and NARO, and developed groups of farmers skilled in various methods of multiplying cassava planting material. The district is currently making plans to continue funding local cassava multiplication activities using these groups of farmers for the 2012-2013 season, through public procurement of cassava cuttings under the national extension programme National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS);
- Some of these groups have the potential to emerge as cassava seed enterprises, forming long term alliances with NARO for dissemination of new varieties which may be developed in the future;
- At the end of the project, farmers and facilitators will be able to give sustainability to the activities, disseminating and supporting the approach of FFS at national level, with the support of governments and other development partners.

SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE NEPAD COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CAADP)



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional
Programme

Recipient countries
Benin, Burundi,
Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia,
Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra
Leone, Togo, Uganda and
Zambia - AUC/NEPAD
Framework

Contribution
USD 2 800 000
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2010-2013

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the project is the significant reduction of hunger and poverty in Africa in line with the First Millennium Development Goal (MDG 1), through sustained agricultural growth and food production as a result of effective implementation of CAADP at national and regional levels.

As a political and economic strategy to combat the recurrent food crises, in 2003, African Heads of State and Governments adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) to rationalize and revitalize agriculture and rural development, and also to achieve the MDGs. CAADP has now become Africa-led and a reference frame to tackle agricultural development and food insecurity in the African continent, recognized by the international community and fully capturing the five Rome principles for sustainable food safety.

However, after more than five years since its launch, despite the accelerated progress in which a number of countries, especially in West Africa, have concluded their country round tables and signed the Compacts (by identifying key areas and developing a road map), implementation of CAADP on the ground has not advanced at the desired pace.

This requires organizational skills and technical capacity within the continental and regional institutions, which at the moment is clearly lacking. This project therefore aims at addressing these issues with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), the African Union Commission (AUC), the Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture (AUC-DREA), and to assist countries in starting effective implementation of CAADP under three strategic and interlinked objectives:

(i) strengthening the capacities of NPCA and AUC-DREA; (ii) operationalization of Compacts to advance CAADP implementation in 11 countries; and (iii) improving coordination of donor support and promoting South-South Cooperation.

This project aims at preparing the necessary background documents and proposals for other funding mechanisms to the CAADP, including the *L'Aquila* Joint Statement follow-up, which stressed the particular importance of the CAADP process, as “an effective vehicle for ensuring that resources are targeted to a country’s plans and priorities”.

BENEFICIARIES

The immediate beneficiaries are NPCA and AUC-DREA, with respect to the CAADP implementation, 11 African countries and selected Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The ultimate beneficiaries are small householders in the 11 target countries.

STRATEGY

The project builds upon past FAO assistance to the Agriculture Unit of NPCA and of the AUC-DREA with the view to strengthening their technical capacity in the formulation and effective implementation of programmes and activities in support of political and financial resources mobilization for CAADP.

The project works in cooperation with partners of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development and of the CAADP Development Partners Task Team who organize the annual CAADP Partnership Platform meeting. It is implemented in coordination with other ongoing projects and programmes, also implemented by FAO and other development partners in order to ensure complementarities and avoid duplication of efforts.

The project strategy aims at:

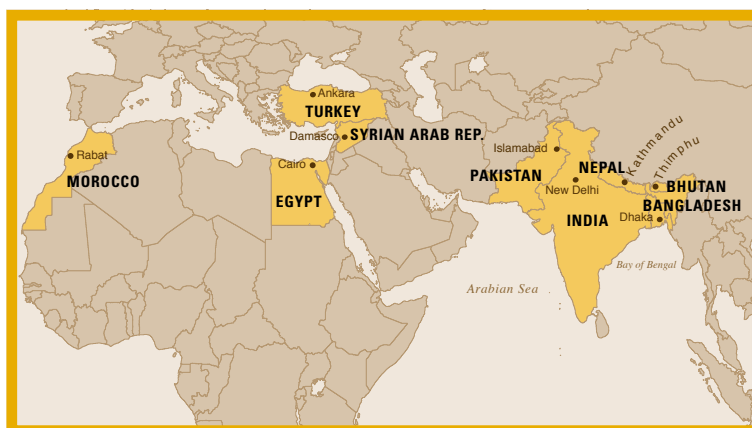
- Strengthening the Agriculture Unit of NPCA and AUC-DREA in terms of human resources and technical skills, to provide effective policy and political leadership in advancing the CAADP agenda at national and regional levels;
- Successfully implementing CAADP in at least 11 countries that have signed the Compacts;
- Enhancing the collaboration between different partners to coordinate, harmonize and expand resources for CAADP.

RESULTS

- CAADP implemented in the 11 countries with some preliminary indication of positive agricultural growth response;
- Opportunities for South-South Cooperation (SSC) in the framework of CAADP implementation at national and regional levels;
- A strategy and Action Plan to promote intra-African successful experiences and best practices, especially within and between countries;
- Preparation of comprehensive reports to map ongoing collaborative activities and identify areas that are feasible for collaboration between members of the Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development Cluster (AFSRDC) of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) that include AUC-DREA and NPCA;
- Improving policy and process guidance from NPCA and African Union-DREA to the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and individual countries on CAADP issues;
- Increasing flow of domestic and external financial resources to CAADP implementation from non-traditional development partners;

- Establishing and improving benchmarks and databases to enhance formulation of national agriculture development policies and strategies;
- A monitoring and evaluation system, consistent with the Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) developed under the leadership of the CAADP Development Partners Task Team (DP/TT) to monitor progress and assess impacts in the implementation of national CAADPs;
- Feasibility proposal of an African Regional Information Hub (ARIH) prepared on various aspects of food security, especially trends in food supply.

POLICY AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN COUNTRIES AT DIRECT RISK OF NEW VIRULENT RACES OF WHEAT RUSTS



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional
Programme

Recipient countries
Bangladesh, Bhutan,
Egypt, India, Morocco,
Nepal, Pakistan, Syria
and Turkey

Contribution
USD 185 000
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2010-2012

OBJECTIVE

The project contributes to global food security through the reduction of the impact of wheat rust epidemics through support to the selected countries in the prevention and management of emerging wheat rusts and the enhancement of wheat productivity.

Wheat is a major source of food and income for a significant proportion of the world population. It is especially important in the diet of the consumers in South and Central Asia and the Near East, providing on average around 40 percent of per capita calorie supply.

Wheat rusts are among the most important wheat production biotic constraints that result in yield losses. In the last decade, new virulent races of wheat rusts have evolved and spread, affecting the vast majority of wheat cultivars in the Near East, Central and South Asian countries.

Significant losses would increase the costs of imports and threaten the food security of millions of poorer consumers whose main food is derived from wheat. The most effective measure to control wheat rusts is the use of resistant varieties along with good agricultural practices, including diversification of farming systems. Fungicides are not economically feasible in the long term and in general their use might have negative effects on the environment and human health, inducing the development of resistances, rendering chemical control ineffective.

In 2008, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched the Wheat Rust Disease Global Programme (WRDGP) to prevent wheat rust diseases. The WRDGP is part of the expanded Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (FAO/EMPRES), and it is a multi-donor initiative that coordinates FAO's wheat rust activities, implemented in close collaboration with the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative (BGRI) partners.

This project aims at supporting national governments in countries that have expressed interest in the development of a national contingency plan for wheat rusts and will also support awareness raising and promote regional cooperation in action taken against wheat rusts in the South Asian countries.

BENEFICIARIES

The ultimate beneficiaries of this project are the wheat growers in the project countries, who will benefit from a reduction in the risk of rust epidemics from newly emerging races and improve field crop management.

The direct beneficiaries are also the policy makers in the ministries concerned and government units in these countries whose abilities to develop and implement contingency plans will be enhanced, allowing for a quick response to and early rehabilitation from the present and future wheat rust crises.

STRATEGY

FAO, in close collaboration with its BGRI partners, the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), Ministries of Agriculture, seed associations and farmer groups, has been implementing several initiatives to reduce the impact of wheat rusts on production, with the aim to guarantee food security.

The project will be implemented closely and primarily with national governments by holding workshops and training sessions. Awareness raising with the policy-makers is a priority to pave the ground for government support in the setting-up of national frameworks within which surveillance, seed multiplication and field management practices for wheat rust prevention and management could be effectively implemented.

Contingency planning will be strengthened, by involving several stakeholders, among them NGOs, public and private seed sector, farming communities, to develop competencies and responsibilities, including: reliable monitoring and surveillance system, national breeding and gene deployment strategies to develop wheat varieties with durable rust resistance, efficient varietal release and seed systems for quick multiplication and distribution of resistant varieties, collaboration and information sharing among the relevant actors at the national and regional levels.

RESULTS

- Regional workshop for enhancement of coordination and for contingency planning in South Asia;
- Contingency plans prepared for Morocco, Syria or Turkey and one South Asian country;
- Development of informational basis for farmers on use and access to wheat resistant varieties for contingency planning in Syria.

COPING WITH WATER SCARCITY - THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURE (PHASE III) - STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITIES IN JORDAN, LEBANON AND SYRIA



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional
Programme
Recipient countries
Jordan, Lebanon and
Syria
Contribution
USD 2 373 000
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2011–2014

OBJECTIVE

Coping with water scarcity has been identified as one of the main flagship programmes of the cooperation between Italy and FAO.

Phase I of the project GCP/GLO/203/ITA (Coping with water scarcity – the role of agriculture; the comprehensive framework), developed a comprehensive framework that describes and addresses a wide range of issues that result from water scarcity.

Phase II of the project GCP/INT/072/ITA (Coping with water scarcity – the role of agriculture; Developing National Water Audits in Africa), foresaw the organization of a water audit to provide local administrations and river basin organizations, with a comprehensive methodology for assessing, analysing and reporting on the use of scarce water resources. On the supply side, the audit provides information about the water availability. On the demand side, it gives a detailed picture, on how the water is used, for which purpose, and with which value.

Phase III of the GCP/INT/124/ITA project aims at strengthening the national capacities of countries to cope with water scarcity. Since most of the Near East countries have already reached or even gone beyond maximum water scarcity levels, this region is a good starting point to invest in national capacities. The current project aims to strengthen, together with national and regional counterparts, national capacities to cope with water scarcity in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

The project aims at strengthening national capacities on: improved water demand management in large-scale irrigation systems; promoting water productivity enhancement; wastewater treatment and reuse for irrigation.

The overall goal is to facilitate the sustainable development of irrigated agriculture and contribute to enhancing food availability, food security and poverty alleviation in the three countries of the Near East.

BENEFICIARIES

The ultimate beneficiaries of the project will be communities, who will benefit from development programmes, pilot projects and interventions for a more efficient use of water in agriculture and livestock production. Other direct beneficiaries are government and water management institutions who will be able to manage available water resources in a sustainable way.

Furthermore, educational institutions, international and local NGOs, the private sector, UN agencies and donors will benefit from strengthened capacities for improved water resource management practices, which will ultimately result in more sustainable water management interventions for agriculture.

STRATEGY

International and national experts and qualified institutions worldwide will form a strategic partnership to provide all the experience required. Consultative meetings will be held with UN-Water and other institutions that have a profound expertise in assessing and analysing the state of water resources and their use in all sectors, but with specific attention to the agricultural sector.

While the project will be working mainly in three countries, surrounding countries will benefit through participation in different training exercises, workshops and seminars.

RESULTS

The project will facilitate countries to improve their capacity to cope with water scarcity as a result of improved knowledge of their water resources situation in general and increased skills of technology in the way water is being used in the agricultural sector in particular. The project aims at strengthening national capacities by following both a regional and a national approach and the results to be achieved are:

- Increased capacity for water demand management in large-scale irrigation systems;
- Increased capacity to enhance water productivity in agriculture;
- Improved use of treated wastewater for irrigation (Wastewater Treatment Plant);
- Contribution to a policy and strategy for the management of water use worldwide.

COASTAL FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT FOR GAZA AND INHAMBANE PROVINCES, MOZAMBIQUE



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional
Programme

Recipient country
Mozambique

Contribution
USD 4 121 692
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Scheme
Multilateral
(DGCS -Uff. IV)

Duration
2008-2012

OBJECTIVE

The project Coastal Fisheries Development for Gaza and Inhambane Provinces (PPAGI) was developed to consolidate the achievements of the previous project *“Support for the rehabilitation of fisherfolk affected by the floods in Sofala, Inhambane and Gaza provinces”* (OSRO/MOZ/004/ITA) implemented by the Italian Government following the Eline floods in 2000. PPAGI was designed in 2004 but implementation only started in 2008. The project was therefore re-oriented in 2009, altering both its approach and scope.

The present project’s goal is to contribute to improving the living conditions of families in the fishing communities in the target provinces, through improved fisheries production, productivity and marketing. In order to achieve this, five immediate objectives have been defined, namely:

- Improved levels of income from fishing;
- Expanded networks and systems for processing & marketing of products and inputs;
- Strengthened capacity within fishing communities;
- Development of financial services aimed at diversifying fishing and supporting the services both upstream and downstream of the fishing activity;
- Strengthened capacity of State institutions in the fisheries sector.

BENEFICIARIES

The primary target beneficiaries are fisherfolk, boat builders, marine mechanics, fish processors and traders of fish products. The project covers ten districts within the two provinces, Massingir, Xai-Xai, Manjacaze, Bilene e Chibuto, in Gaza Province, and Vilanculos, Inhassoro, Govuro, Zavala and Maxixe in Inhambane Province. Key national institutions including IDPPE (Institute for Small-scale Fisheries Development), FFP (Fisheries Support Fund) and IIP (Institute of Fisheries Research) also receive assistance from the project so that they will be better placed to provide sustainable support to fisherfolk in the longer term.

STRATEGIES

The principal strategy of the project is to provide vocational training in key areas along the value chain, supported by financial services to enable beneficiaries to invest in both diversified technologies as well as small-scale subsistence practices.

Together with this, the project supports various initiatives aimed at improved resource management, both through increased community participation in co-management and through improved collection, analysis and application of fisheries data.

RESULTS

- **Improved income from fishing:** the project has made some significant progress in the training of artisans in support of fisheries production and productivity: 45 boat builders have been trained in the building of diversified types of fishing vessels; 90 marine mechanics have been trained in the repair and maintenance to improve both the profitability and safety of mechanized vessel operations; around 60 fisherfolk have been trained in the construction and use of improved fishing gears; this has resulted in the construction of more than 120 new fishing gears; the project has supported the collection and diffusion of the national fisheries statistics, to update the status of key resources and information in resource management.
- **Processing and Marketing:** the project has supported significant training in fish processing and handling, to improve quality, food safety and value addition; around 500 processors and traders participated in training courses related to both traditional processing methods (salting and drying) as well as the use of ice and general fish handling; impacts have included a general reduction in post harvest losses; the project is in the process of building two primary markets, that should supply basic services to traders as well as functioning as a hub for both wholesale and local retail activities.
- **Community Capacity Building:** the project has supported grassroots community organizations; community fishery councils have been established and/or strengthened as the main vector for community participation in fisheries and resource co-management; through the community councils and intermediate co-management committees significant progress has been made in the resolution of conflicts related to the impact of local fishing communities, control of illegal fishing gears, licensing etc.; the project has also supported the development and expansion of rotating savings and credit groups in fishing communities.
- **Financial Services:** through the credit component, the project established a long-term revolving credit fund for the fisheries sector, managed by the Fisheries Support Fund (FFP); the micro-finance organizations working with these funds have financed an investment portfolio covering both production, processing and trading; in addition the project has supported improved credit management within the FFP through the provision of technical assistance and the development of operating manuals.
- **Institutional Development:** the project has supported the training of field technicians in the fisheries extension network in areas including saving and credit, fisheries technology and statistics.

PREPARATION OF AN AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS MASTER PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SYSTEM, MOZAMBIQUE



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional
Programme
Recipient country
Mozambique
Contribution
USD 561 885
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)
Scheme
Multilateral (*Uff. IV*)
Duration
2010–2012

OBJECTIVE

The project goal is to create a coordinated and integrated approach to the agricultural and food statistics system in Mozambique. The specific objectives are aimed to: strengthen the capacity of the agricultural statistics system for production of high quality data on the agricultural sector at central and local level; support the agricultural development process by improving integrated, coherent, accurate rural data flow; and provide information which would be a solid basis for the analysis, policies processing, planning, monitoring and assessment of the rural and food sector performance. The project also aims to strengthen capacity of the national institutes involved in agricultural statistics (National Statistics Institute - INE - and Ministry of Agriculture).

An integrated system of evaluation and monitoring of policies is necessary within the agricultural development programme. An improvement and increase in data is also necessary to determine and supervise food insecurity and to determine specific development policies to fight rural poverty.

Currently many subjects are involved in rural statistics collection and formulation with consequential contradictory valuation and duplication of efforts. As a result of this situation, agricultural, livestock, fishing and production system statistics lack in credibility and look inadequate and unreliable, so they cannot provide the basis for adequate developing policies and strategies.

BENEFICIARIES

- Farmers will benefit from improved rural development policies, resulting in more opportunities for agricultural production, trade and export and in general, better standards of living;
- The rural population will benefit from increased food security through more efficient monitoring and reduction of rural poverty;
- Direct beneficiaries will also be administrators and government, as well as non government institutions and agencies involved in rural development, food security and poverty reduction.

STRATEGIES

The project foresees the development of an integrated framework for data collection, more suitable research and production methods and the definition of priority information. A ten-year Statistic Master Plan will be established for agricultural and food statistics, taking into account the frequency of data collection, as well as the territorial disaggregation; the project will be implemented following a workshop with the interested parties, in order to discuss and gain consensus for the proposal.

A draft project will be drawn up for external technical assistance to support the implementation of the master plan and preparatory activities will be carried out, focusing on the development of methodology and training.

Development of methodology will include planning and testing in the field during a farming season, paying particular attention to gathering information about effective costs of agricultural production using modern data collecting technology (using GPS to measure cropped areas) and data processing tools. The results of the pilot survey will be the starting point for the implementation of a yearly national farming statistic system, in a second phase.

RESULTS

- A report on the assessment of the current agricultural statistic situation of the country based on existing data and priorities and on applied methodologies;
- A Master Plan for ten years prepared for the agricultural statistics system, including:
 - a. assessment in terms of capacity building and definition of priority areas for technical intervention;
 - b. defining the most appropriate methodology for data collection;
 - c. defining the most appropriate institutional structure for data production;
- Strengthening technical skills of the INE and of the Ministry of Agriculture of Mozambique to produce and promote high quality statistics in the rural sector.

SUPPORT TO THE IMMEDIATE REHABILITATION OF FARMING, COSTAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE LIVELIHOODS IN THE CYCLONE NARGIS-AFFECTED AREAS, MYANMAR



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional Programme
Recipient country
Myanmar
Contribution
USD 2 785 515
(Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Scheme
Multilateral (*Uff.V*)
Duration
2009–2012

OBJECTIVE

Cyclone Nargis caused severe damages and loss of livelihood, work and income for the population of the affected areas of the coastal, rural agroproductive zones, as well as urban and peri-urban areas. Beyond the support to meet basic needs in the short-term, early recovery activities focus on helping people to restore livelihoods, through the provision of farming and fishing inputs.

Project GCP/MYA/012/ITA has incorporated the progress made under the emergency project OSRO/MYA/807/ITA (Immediate rehabilitation of farming, coastal fisheries and aquaculture livelihoods in the cyclone Nargis-affected areas of Myanmar) funded by the General Directorate for Development Cooperation (DGCS) – Ufficio V of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE), with an implementation period of 24 months (from July 2008 to June 2010) and a total budget of EUR 2 million.

Following the confirmation of an additional contribution of USD 2.5 million from the MAE-DGCS-Ufficio II in support of Cyclone Nargis recovery and development needs in Myanmar, in consultation with the donor and units involved within FAO, it was agreed to formulate a comprehensive umbrella programme: Environmentally Sustainable Food Security Programme (ESFSP), for a total value of USD 5.3 million.

The ESFSP embraces the following three projects:

- GCP/MYA/012/ITA: Support to the Immediate Rehabilitation of Farming, Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Livelihoods in the Cyclone Nargis-affected Areas of Myanmar, which replaced the initial project OSRO/MYA/807/ITA (Multilateral channel);
- GCP/MYA/011/ITA: Support to Special Rice Production (Multilateral channel, project file available in this book);
- GCP/MYA/010/ITA: Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture Livelihoods in Coastal Mangrove Ecosystems (Multilateral channel, project file available in this book).

All three projects were signed in Yangon in May 2009, with the GCP/MYA/012/ITA maintaining the coordination provisions as the host project for the Programme Management Coordination Unit (PMCU) that oversees the implementation of the other two initiatives.

The implementation of the ESFSP programme started in January 2010.

The project would aim to improve land use practices, increase food production and reduce the production costs of food crops (e.g. rice and pulses), capture fisheries and fish farming, and add value to basic commodities through groups and Community-based Organizations (CBO) for agroprocessing and marketing. It would ensure sector coordination for crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry subsectors through information sharing and updates, gap identification, involvement of local authorities, NGOs and private sector organizations.

BENEFICIARIES

The project anticipates that some 29 150 small-scale farmers, fisherfolk and marginal producers would adopt improved production technologies on a small scale and make sustainable improvements in household food production, nutritional status and income generating opportunities in the cyclone-affected townships of Bogale, Labutta and Pyapon in the Ayeyarwady Division.

The capacity of more than 100 service providers and community leaders will be strengthened to enable them to develop policies, formulate strategies for medium-term livelihood rehabilitation and deliver improved production, processing and marketing technologies through participatory research and extension approaches.

STRATEGIES

- A holistic and synergistic approach to address agriculture recovery and rehabilitation of means of sustenance in the four interlinked subsectors (crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry), which form the bulk of the livelihoods in the cyclone-affected area;
- The use of participatory research and extension processes such as Farmer Field Schools to promote, demonstrate and disseminate improved technologies and appropriate practices to address climate change and soil/drainage conditions of those areas;
- Community self-identification and selection of beneficiaries, monitoring and evaluation;
- Delivery of project inputs and equipment among farmer groups and CBOs, on a matching grant basis with full or partial cost recovery depending on the social status and financial capacity of the group community.

RESULTS

- Rural communities mobilized to benefit from improved agricultural support services (involvement of implementing partners, awareness campaigns, baseline surveys, training of service providers, strengthening of CBOs);
- Enhanced long-term productivity of land, reduced food insecurity (transfer of improved technologies through the implementation of Farmer Field Schools for adults, formation of farmer groups, supply of seeds and equipment);
- Improved support to coastal, river and inland fishing practices and improved household nutritional status of vulnerable fishing communities;
- Effective recovery in the agricultural sector (agriculture, livestock and fisheries) and in the forestry sector (technical assistance to project stakeholders, development of medium-term livelihood rehabilitation plans, effective and efficient management of ESFSP).

LEBANESE NATIONAL OBSERVATORY FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional Programme
Recipient country
Lebanon
Contribution
USD 1 474 151
(Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Scheme
Multilateral (*Uff. III*)
Duration
2009–2012

OBJECTIVE

The project aims at implementing a useful tool for the management of information to establish a working observatory for agricultural development; this will allow the evaluation of international regulations, standards and guidelines produced by the observatory of FAO and other partners for rural development, and provide the possibility to apply the regulations to a Lebanese National Observatory.

The availability of adequate information, and the skills needed, constitute the basis for a better efficiency in agricultural strategy elaboration and in project and programme implementation. The setting up of a Lebanese National Observatory will provide an excellent tool to gather all the necessary information, to benefit from the synergies of the initiatives and ensure sustainable, targeted funding.

The Observatory will be able to compile and process data. It will also analyse rural and agricultural development projects and programmes, allowing follow-up at national, regional and sectoral level. The primary objective of the Observatory is to fill the gap caused by the poor efficiency of the administrative institutions to promote sustainable development.

Lebanon has a complex institutional network which needs to be rationalized and optimized; the elaboration of clear partnership between stakeholders of economic and social development in the country, including the definition of adequate goals and the targeting and monitoring of indicators, is key to successful economic and social reforms in Lebanon. The creation of an Observatory will help to amplify the use of the existing Information System and its functions will complement and enrich the work of the public and private sectors, providing support for the information collection and assessment.

BENEFICIARIES

- Ministry of Agriculture (MoA): through the strengthening of its technical and implementation capacities;
- Government Institutions: through access to information produced by the Observatory which will also constitute a centre for dialogue and cooperation to coordinate their initiatives;
- Civil society and the private sector: the observatory will constitute a tool for decision-making and partnership between the sectors;
- International organizations and NGOs: the setting up of an observatory will allow them to coordinate their activities in order to avoid duplication of projects and to formulate and identify programmes according to the needs of the country in terms of agricultural development;
- Donors: the Observatory will help donors to target programmes and projects according to local needs;
- Other observatories will benefit from the Lebanese National Observatory, by sharing experience and taking advantage of lessons learned.

STRATEGIES

The support requested from FAO through its Statistics Division and Land and Water Division, aims to develop and make operational a mechanism for decision-making in the agricultural and rural sector and to improve the social and economic income of the stakeholders, putting at their disposal a space for analysis and dialogue as well as a supporting advisory system, providing regular updated information. To achieve this, it is important to update the existing Information System and extend its analysis and dissemination functions towards potential users.

This entity will work closely with the MoA and the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) and other institutions and organizations involved in the agricultural sector, constituting a space for information sharing and coordinating the activities which are conducted by different public institutions, by the private sector and civil society.

RESULTS

The project will provide a mechanism of observation, analysis and monitoring, easily accessible to stakeholders. Its impact will be to develop adequate synergies between private and public initiatives, allowing a better, active participation, as well as concrete dialogue and coordination between all actors involved in the agricultural and rural sector. In addition, it will contribute to the increase in the capacity of the agricultural and rural sector by establishing a managed and updated database and a rational capacity of methodological appraisal for the preparation and follow-up of programmes, projects and policies.

This will come about through:

- The establishment of legal aspects and management structure of the observatory;
- Maintenance, strengthening and efficiency of the database and information system unit for the production, management and dissemination of agricultural statistics data;
- Creating and making operational a support unit which will contribute to the studies related to the agricultural and rural policy and strategy of the MoA;
- Promotion of internal and external dialogue and partnership.

STRENGTHENING PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF LEBANESE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS



Implementing Partner
FAO/Italy Traditional Programme
Recipient Countries
Lebanon
Contribution
USD 2 888 187
(Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Scheme
Multilateral (*Uff. III*)
Duration
2009-2012

OBJECTIVE

Lebanese agriculture, which has long been known for the high quality and wide variety of its fresh fruits and vegetables, lagged behind the technological developments and horticultural industry changes, and consequently quality of agricultural production has deteriorated and some of the traditional export markets have been lost.

The agricultural sector in Lebanon is still facing an array of policy, structural, technological, financial and institutional constraints, hindering its development and resulting in the low performance of the sector as a whole.

The project aims to develop institutional and organizational skills of the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to improve rural production, marketing and empower food security and quality systems. As a consequence, the quality of agricultural products will be improved at national, local and international level, and there will be an improvement in the overall efficiency of the agricultural sector.

The project will contribute to the strengthening and modernization of the rural productive sector and also update the legal framework by developing a system for the registration and control of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides handling and use, and the establishment of a registration system for the treatment of post-harvest products.

The project will help to strengthen the link between producers and buyers by developing adequate marketing contracts, in particular by defining the prerequisites and management strategies required to ensure the success of international agreements.

BENEFICIARIES

The target beneficiaries of the project are small- and medium-scale farmers/producers, farmer groups, and small and medium agroprocessors across the country. In addition, the project beneficiaries include MoA technical staff (inspectors, extensions agents, agricultural engineers, laboratory technicians) through the improvement of the skills of their technical staff and modernization of the regulatory and operational framework. Furthermore, consumers will also benefit from the project through the consumption of safe and high quality products.

STRATEGIES

The strategy will be developed through four different phases:

- Project Inception phase: designation of stakeholders, project work plan and inception workshop to organize project activities;
- Implementation Phase I: evaluate supply and demand of management services in marketing and agrifood sector; capacity building needs assessment; develop training materials; organize training sessions; distribute information; carry out consultations with stakeholders in public and private sectors in order to create a marketing strategy plan, update standards and technical regulations on food security and production.
- Implementation Phase II: carry out revision of legislative and regulatory framework, database, national catalogue, for implementing an effective seeds and plant nursery stock registration system; development of procedure for updating the list of parasites and relative research; develop a national monitoring programme on chemical and microbiological contaminants
- Implementation Phase III: develop appropriate contract models for farmers and buyers; information sessions for farmers; realization of marketing strategies in collaboration with interested parties; support farmer organizations in the quality mark process; finalization of project activities, reports.

RESULTS

- Improved production of good quality and safe agricultural products through strengthened institutional and operational capacity and adequate delivery of services to farmers;
- Improved agricultural post-harvest, marketing, credit, business advisory services, food quality and safety practices;
- Institutional and operational capacities upgraded for managing food safety and quality systems.

REGIONAL MASTER PLAN ON WATER SHARING FOR THE MESOPOTAMIAN BASIN



Implementing partner
FAO/Italy Traditional
Programme

Recipient countries
Iran, Iraq and Syria

Contribution
USD 4 538 235
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Scheme
Multilateral (*Uff.III*)

Duration
2012–2015

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the project is to promote a sustainable development process for the Lower Mesopotamia countries (Iran, Iraq and Syria) to address common problems of water resource management.

Due to the instability of the region and problems related to water management, the project aims at supporting countries to take appropriate measures that can meet, in a sustainable way, the challenges of water scarcity, water quality and hydroelectric energy generation. The issue of the Lower Mesopotamia region is actually manifold: i) water scarcity is affecting mostly local food production; ii) increased salinity and pollution in general are affecting negatively irrigation activities and soil productivity; and iii) climatic changes in the region have reduced water availability, with serious ensuing implications for the future, with a negative impact on the generation of hydroelectric energy, land-use management and planning in the region.

All the countries are currently involved in the formulation of strategies and policies for natural resource planning and management, and water plays a key role in this approach. Therefore, this project will contribute and support this process by formulating such policies through support to suitable institutions in the countries concerned.

BENEFICIARIES

The ultimate beneficiaries of the project will be communities, benefiting from the development project in the lower Mesopotamia region and its sub-basins.

Other direct beneficiaries are the governments of the countries concerned and water management institutions in particular, through capacity strengthening for an improved capacity to manage water resources for agriculture and energy generation.

Furthermore, educational institutions, international/regional and local NGOs, the private sector, United Nations agencies and donors, who operate *in situ* will benefit from strengthened capacities promoted by the project to improve transboundary water resource management.

STRATEGY

The project will follow five main lines:

- Conducting a hydrologic and environmental risk assessment through an analysis of sub-basins and socio-economic subsectors;
- Exploring the potential for hydropower development in the medium and long term;
- Establishing a technical and institutional platform for early warning against the degradation of water quality and changes in water availability;
- Strengthening the analytical capacity of water planners by dedicated training in the fields of water scarcity, water allocation and process evaluation diagnostic tools;
- Implementing pilot projects and investment in water infrastructure as part of a comprehensive water scarcity management programme.

RESULTS

This applied methodology approach will eventually lead to:

- Improved common understanding of hydrology in Lower Mesopotamia, including an assessment of hydrological and environmental risks in its sub-basins/subsectors, the prospects for future agricultural and hydropower developments, and the impacts on water quality and quantity, also in view of the challenges posed by climate change;
- Enhanced capacity of national institutes to participate in knowledge-based planning, decision-making and water resource management through the application of advanced tools, including enhancement of supply and demand management;
- Set-up technical and institutional platform for an early warning system to detect, in synergy with appropriate hydrologic analysis, threats to water availability and quality and allow individuals exposed to a hazard to take action to avoid or reduce risks and prepare for effective response. Support from international organizations and partnerships with governments will be fostered to enable countries to strengthen evaluation and response skills at national and regional level;
- Set up mechanisms to measure water quality and quantity, in synergy with appropriate hydrologic studies, to analyse hydrographic basins and sub-basins (with particular focus on the Iran/Iraq sub-basin of the Tigris River);
- Stronger relations amongst the stakeholders involved in the management of water resources in the Lower Mesopotamia region to enhance dialogue for collaboration and institute cooperation mechanisms, enabling regular formal and informal meetings at all levels (technical, social, political, as well as regional, national and local levels);
- Facilitate a planned coordination at regional level to implement pilot projects at national level. The project is expected to help countries plan, in a proactive and cost effective way, appropriate measures such as investment in water resources and food security.



CROP DIVERSIFICATION AND MARKETING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN ETHIOPIA



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety
Recipient country
Ethiopia
Contribution
USD 4 000 000
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2005-2012

OBJECTIVE

The project objective is the promotion of economic growth through support to smallholder farmers in areas with recognized market potential, in rural areas of Ethiopia and in particular in the Arsi zone and the Oromia region.

The project aims at tapping new market opportunities by providing technology that has a potential to increase production and productivity as well as quality standards, to increase family income, minimize price volatility and promote sustainable use of natural resources.

Ethiopia is based on a rural society and is one of the poorest countries in the world.

The GTFS/ETH/067/ITA project is implemented in the target areas in order to empower smallholder farmers, by intensifying and diversifying production and improving commercialization.

Following the encouraging results achieved in Phase I of the project (2006–2010), the Government of Italy allocated additional funds for up-scaling the project core activities and consolidating outputs. The objective of the up-scaling phase is to continue supporting the ongoing activities while putting more emphasis on the adoption of the Value Chain Approach (VCA) for priority commodities, to enhance knowledge and opportunities of smallholders, increase horticultural production, farmer-based seed production and dairy development and encourage marketing.

BENEFICIARIES

- Farming communities that receive technical advice to improve farming practices, livestock husbandry and food crop outputs;
- Women within rural communities, who actively participate in the project activities;
- Consumers who have greater availability of high quality food in local markets;

- Private entrepreneurs, who are involved in providing technical tools, input supply, processing services and the sale of agricultural products;
- Regional and district staff to develop small-scale irrigation schemes to contribute to the reduction of water losses, reduction in pumping costs and improved water management.

STRATEGY

During Phase I the GTFS/ETH/067/ITA project contributed to achieve the overall goal to improve food security, by working on the following main components:

- **Farm technology development component:** identify and diversify crop production to improve food security and the nutritional status of rural communities as well as increase food production and cash income by: i) introducing and promoting new farming technologies and good agricultural practices in small-scale irrigation schemes including watershed management; ii) diversifying production in highland areas with reliable rainfall and irrigated areas, for commercialization in well identified niche markets of products such as better seeds, high quality vegetables and dairy and livestock products.
- **Market development component:** improve the value added of cash crops by: i) selecting intervention areas with acceptable infrastructure, including road links, and located close to the main consumer markets (Addis Ababa and Nazareth); ii) promoting productivity, better quality and commercialization; iii) promoting investments, especially in irrigation: strengthening communication and cooperative promotion services to assist small farmers; iv) cooperate with Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) to back small cooperatives and single farmers.
- **Capacity building and institutional strengthening component:** identify socio-economic constraints to transform subsistence agriculture into a dynamic sector, by: i) looking for synergies with other projects to promote coordination of activities; ii) ensuring the participation of women, who have a key role in household decision-making and are more and more involved in rural activities; iii) establishing quantitative and qualitative baseline information.
- **Strengthen the capacity of farmers' organizations** and create linkage to service providers, promote value chain approach and enhance farmers' skills in agribusiness.

For **the up-scaling phase**, the project is focusing on three priority commodities: vegetable and fruits production, farmer-based seed production and marketing, and dairy production, through two main dynamics:

- Promotion and support to market-oriented production for selected value chain commodities;
- Support in promoting marketing efficiency and value addition.

RESULTS

- Training courses on food production, small-scale irrigation schemes, irrigation techniques, water management and drainage;
- Diversified and intensified production, commercialization of high-quality vegetables, fruit, cereals, oil seeds;
- Training of women members of farmer organizations in the production of vegetables such as tomatoes, carrots, potatoes, tuber seeds, onions, botanical seeds and pepper, to increase both the value of local production and marketing opportunities;
- Improved quantity and quality production of seed through support to seed producers cooperatives;

- Enhanced production and productivity of dairy cattle and enhanced production of quality beef products;
- Improved quality and marketability of vegetables through support to the Water Users Association (WUA);
- Building capacity of seed producers cooperatives, horticulture producers cooperatives and dairy cooperatives through training and consultative meetings to enhance their effectiveness in the market place through group action;
- Initiated the formation and strengthening of farmers organizations;
- Linking the farmer groups/cooperatives to markets and service providers;
- Promote the value chain approach through chain analysis and consultative meetings with stakeholders, formation of commodity forums and information sharing;
- Improved milk collection, in terms of quality and quantity, through support to the dairy cooperatives.

- iii) Facilitation of agribusiness linkages and contract arrangements especially between producers, producer cooperatives - traders and local agroprocessing firms;
- iv) Provision of institutional and regulatory support for enhanced cross-border trade including support to exploit market opportunities within the East Africa Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

BENEFICIARIES

- Farmer-based organizations and their members;
- Traders, processors and other stakeholders of selected food chains;
- National technical staff and other local service providers;
- Rural communities, women, children and consumers of agricultural products.
- In total, about 20 000 beneficiaries are taking part in the project activities directly.

STRATEGY

The project aims at ensuring food security, increasing incomes and employment to reduce poverty, through the revival and modernization of the agricultural sector. To achieve this objective, the project provides technical assistance, involving smallholder farmers and producers in the food chain.

- In Burundi: in the Districts of Kayanza, Kirundo and Ngozi, the selected value chains are milk, rice, passion fruit and pineapple. The current phase is aiming at providing technical assistance to transform current informal activities into small-scale enterprises through enhanced business planning and management of viable business activities. Linkages have been established between farming organizations and credit institutions for microfinancing to access required equipment and inputs for entrepreneurial activity development. The project is also expanding the coverage of the best practices in agriculture.
- In DRC: in the Districts of Goma, Uvira and Bukavu, the selected value chains are maize, palm oil and rice. Capacity development is focused on increasing small-scale producers' access to inputs and other support services such as financing and credit, as well as to market facilities to improve the main commodity value, through storage, packaging, distribution and facilitation of food processing linkages. The project is partnering with other value chain actors, such as farmer cooperatives, traders and small and medium enterprises involved in the production chain.
- In Rwanda: in the Districts of Burera and Gicumbi in the north and Gisagara in the south, the selected value chains are cassava, Irish potato, maize, milk, passion fruit and pineapple. The project has improved seed distribution and the quality of planting material for all selected food chains by providing certified improved planting material at local level. Eight Input Stores per village have been opened for the production and sale of quality seeds at a better farm-gate price than before the project activities. Producers' groups have established collection and sales centres for Irish potato and drying sheds for maize. These groups can now sell their produce at better prices than before the project.
- In Uganda: in the Districts of Kabale, Kasese and Kisoro, the selected value chains are honey, mango, milk, pineapple, seed and potato. A total of 3 800 households have been mobilized to form groups and 16 associations have been registered and linked to other project partners, including the Saving And Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOS) and the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), as well as to other service providers and value chain actors. The project has supported the establishment of 20 Information Board Managers (IBMs) through training in the management and in the exchange of information. Awareness campaigns have been promoted through radio programmes and promotional material.

The need for increasing cross-regional activities and cross-border trade was observed throughout the first years of project implementation. For this reason, a regional component for the project was developed for the new phase started in 2010, focusing on trade and on synthesis of best practices. Agribusiness regional strategy enhancement is also being targeted in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities concerned. The main activities implemented under this component include: i) assessing policy strategies that each government has set up to facilitate interregional trade as well as the existence of formal and informal infrastructures, facilities and support services related to intra-regional trade among the four countries; ii) advocating for the implementation of trade protocols not yet fully effected and for revision of stringent trade laws that still exist and hinder regional trade.

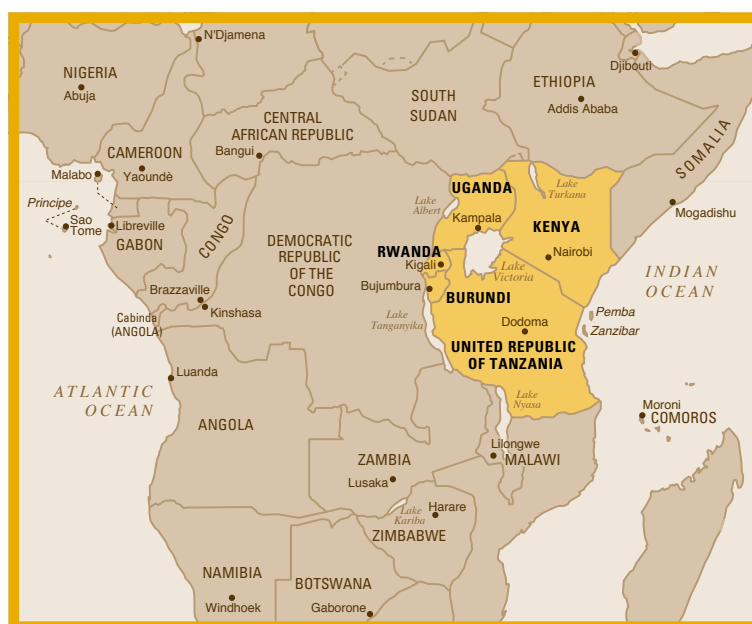
RESULTS

- The project has provided technical support to farmer associations and cooperatives to develop their capacities in modern agricultural practices for market-oriented production, association management, marketing and financial aspects;
- Capacity building and institutional strengthening have contributed to increase producer access to inputs and other support services, as well as to facilities to improve commodity value;
- Overall, associations are able to sell collectively, to establish linkages with key actors in the agricultural value chain, on fair contract basis and at a better price, having a stable access to markets for their products. Accessing reliable information has increased the bargaining power of smallholders.

FUTURE PLANS:

- Participation and engagement of local and national governments in addressing infrastructural and policy constraints that hinder value chain development;
- Capacity building and development of smallholder cooperatives and organizations to improve market linkages at national and cross-border level, guaranteeing modern production levels and increasing value addition in their production (to meet quality and food safety standards);
- Production of communication and information material on cross-border trade regulations and activities, as well as information and communication campaigns to improve visibility;
- Documentation on best practices, identified in the four countries project sites, has been included in publications which contribute to FAO's normative work.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY OF THE SELECTED MEMBER COUNTRIES OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) IN AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS FOR FOOD SECURITY



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety

Recipient countries
Burundi, Kenya, Uganda
and EAC member
countries

Contribution
USD 1 000 000
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2012-2014

OBJECTIVE

The overall goal is to contribute to the effective implementation of the Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy of the East African Community and the EAC Food Security Action Plan (2010–2015) as well as to the ongoing regional economic integration process through better access to harmonized and reliable data on food security and agriculture.

In particular, the project will strengthen the capacity of the EAC Secretariat and its member countries to disseminate reliable and regionally comparable food and agricultural statistics. The project will also strengthen institutional coordination at country level between the National Statistical Office and the Ministry of Agriculture, and improve data quality through cross-validation of different data sources and the use of international standards.

Given the importance of agriculture in the economies of the EAC countries and the renewed attention to monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes, increased access to food and agricultural statistics and stronger integration of agriculture into the National Statistics System are seen as one of the priorities for the economic and social development of the region.

CountrySTAT is an integrated national food and agriculture statistical information system which provides harmonized national data and metadata for analysis and policy-making. It is an on-line one-stop centre allowing easy access to all existing national agricultural statistics reviewed and validated by national experts.



FAO has already implemented the CountrySTAT system in 17 Sub-Saharan African countries, including some EAC member states (Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania), thanks to the generous funding provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. However, the system has not yet been established in Burundi and data from all EAC countries are not yet fully harmonized and integrated into the regional system at the EAC Secretariat (RegionSTAT).

The current project will therefore strengthen the existing system in some of the countries under the BMGF project, expand it to Burundi and also provide regional consolidation through the RegionSTAT system. In particular, this project will facilitate the integration of agriculture into the national statistical system (in Burundi and Kenya), expand the coverage of the database to include a broader set of food security indicators (in Kenya and Uganda) and increase technical capacity of all five EAC countries and the EAC Secretariat. Strengthening the regional institution is seen as a critical element for the sustainability and consolidation of the CountrySTAT project.

BENEFICIARIES

- Technical staff from Ministries of Agriculture and National Statistics Offices of Kenya, Burundi and Uganda, who will be supported in building their technical and operational capacities in agricultural statistics;
- Technical staff from Ministries of Agriculture and National Statistics Offices of other EAC countries (Rwanda and Tanzania) will also benefit through regional training on methodology and CountrySTAT;
- The final beneficiaries are the users of food and agricultural statistics, including decision-makers in the public and private sector (agricultural producers);
- Local communities will also benefit by having the possibility to monitor the performance of policies and programmes in support of food security and agricultural development.

STRATEGY

The main activities that will be conducted during the implementation of the project include:

- Organization of Regional Training courses for national staff in all EAC countries and in the EAC Secretariat on international statistical standards and the use of CountrySTAT;
- Provision of technical assistance to national staff in selected EAC countries (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda) and in the EAC Secretariat;
- Establishment of technical working groups in each project country for the validation of different data sources and the reduction of data duplications;
- Establishment of CountrySTAT and RegionSTAT systems for the dissemination of food and agricultural statistics.



RESULTS

- National staff in all EAC countries and in the EAC Secretariat are trained;
- CountrySTAT is implemented and maintained also in Burundi and RegionSTAT at EAC Secretariat level;
- Indicators of food security are developed in Kenya and Uganda;
- The quality and accessibility of food and agricultural statistics is improved in project countries and data are harmonized in all five EAC countries (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda);
- Statistical data on food and agriculture are used for developing policies and monitoring their impact.

PROMOTION OF COMMERCIALIZATION OF AGRICULTURE AMONG RESETTLING POPULATIONS IN GULU AND LIRA DISTRICTS OF NORTHERN UGANDA TO RESTORE LIVELIHOODS AND REDUCE POVERTY



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety

Recipient country
Uganda

Contribution
USD 1 300 000
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2012-2014

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: AFRICA

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of this project is the sustainable promotion of commercialization of agriculture among resettling populations in Gulu, Lira and Kole districts of Northern Uganda to restore livelihoods and reduce poverty.

The goal of this project is to improve food security and rural incomes, in Acholi and Lango sub-regions of Northern Uganda through the commercialization of agriculture, focusing on rice and sunflower seed value chains. The expected impact of this project is to improve food security for at least 9 000 smallholder farmers and 10 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Gulu, Lira and Kole districts, improving production and productivity and creating better market access and efficiency.

This project targets Northern Uganda, a region that is just emerging from 20 years of civil strife. The Government of Uganda is implementing a comprehensive recovery programme focusing on the resettlement of 1.8 million displaced people in this region within their own villages. The programme is characterized by a gradual shift from traditional emergency assistance in camps to community-based recovery interventions in resettlement areas.

Cross-border and/or regional markets are becoming increasingly important to producers in this region, but the possibility for producers to access such markets is constrained by limited legal and regulatory issues, the poor state of the supporting infrastructure, and lack of protection and promotion of small-scale private sector investments.

ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION TO FAO GLOBAL TRUST FUND FOR
FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SAFETY

This project is aimed at improving food security and incomes of smallholder farmers and emerging Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through the development of the key priority agricultural subsectors in the project area such as rice and sunflower seed. Specifically, the project will put emphasis on supporting and strengthening profitable production, processing, value addition, marketing and capacity development of smallholder farmers to engage in commercial agriculture. The project will focus on strengthening marketing linkages and agribusiness development.

BENEFICIARIES

- Smallholder farmers engaged in rice and sunflower seed production will benefit directly from project activities and an estimated additional 10 000 households will indirectly be reached through farmer-to-farmer extension and technology dissemination;
- Small-scale entrepreneurs and SMEs, five selected in the rice subsector and five in the sunflower seed subsector, including the private sector in general and individuals who start small enterprises, with special focus on the rice and sunflower seed value chain sector;
- The project will involve existing groups/associations in the three districts that are already engaged in processing the products selected;
- Agricultural workers and ministerial staff in the project intervention sites will also benefit from improved knowledge and skills through the Farmer Field School approach to extension.

STRATEGY

A value-chain-development approach of the two subsectors will be adopted and will involve a series of actors from inputs suppliers to producers, processors, traders and exporters with the aim of enhancing marketing linkages and value addition of agricultural production.

Project pilot activities will focus on increasing production and productivity of the selected subsectors (rice and sunflower seed), improving post-harvest handling and processing, improving the soft marketing infrastructure such as storage facilities, supporting linkages to Business Development Services, financial services, and strengthening smallholder capacity to produce and engage more directly with agricultural markets, including selling to big distribution chains.

Special attention will be paid to interventions that contribute to employment generation, facilitate and empower women, youth and marginal groups to engage in activities along the selected value chains.

RESULTS

The main outcome of the project is to enhance the competitiveness, of the agricultural sector by promoting growth and employment while promoting pro-poor inclusive participation and restoring livelihoods for resettling populations.

The project aims to achieve four outputs:

- Agribusiness development by strengthening farmer groups to be engaged in agricultural commercial activities;
- Enhanced production for the current smallholder producers, through the adoption of improved management and post-harvest handling technologies;
- Enhanced capacity of SMEs engaged in targeted commodities processing and marketing to spur innovations along the value chains;
- Establish and strengthen platforms to promote policy dialogue among stakeholders.

INTER-COUNTRY PROJECT COORDINATION FOR FOOD SECURITY THROUGH COMMERCIALIZATION OF AGRICULTURE (FSCA) IN WEST AFRICA:

GTFS/SEN/060/ITA, GTFS/MLI/030/ITA, GTFS/GAM/025/ITA,
GTFS/GBS/028/ITA, GTFS/GUI/019/ITA, GTFS/SIL/028/ITA AND
GTFS/LIR/010/ITA



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety

Recipient countries
Gambia, Guinea, Guinea
Bissau, Liberia, Mali,
Senegal and Sierra Leone

Contribution
USD 2 312 055
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2008-2012

OBJECTIVE

The project objective is to contribute significantly to the development of agriculture in West Africa.

The Inter-Country Coordination (ICC) project, based in Dakar (Senegal), contributes to achieving the main goal of reducing rural poverty and household food insecurity on a sustainable basis, through the commercialization of agriculture strategy, while coordinating through FAO seven Italian-funded national projects in: Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

The project ensures coordination at regional level and supports the seven West African countries to transform agriculture into a modern, competitive and commercially dynamic sector.

At national level, the project activities aim to develop entrepreneurship among small-scale farmers, by tapping new marketing opportunities and improving quantity and quality of agricultural production and reaching acceptable levels of food security.

The ICC project ensures that experiences are shared at regional level and that each country project operates within the general strategy of Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture (FSCA) in West Africa.

The ICC project addresses also regional issues, such as development of cross-border and international markets and harmonization of policies to support agricultural competitiveness and modernization.



BENEFICIARIES

The project primarily involves National Project Coordinators of the seven FSCA projects in West Africa and all staff committed to the project implementation at country level. In addition, representatives of existing or newly established Farmer-based organizations are also among the primary beneficiaries, along with target rural communities.

STRATEGY

The strategy includes three essential components at regional level:

- Linking the seven country projects under a common strategy based on FSCA, to reduce poverty, increase incomes of vulnerable groups, and enhance agricultural modernization, marketing and interregional trade opportunities. This approach provides farmers with new technologies and involves them in the entire food chain at different levels (production, processing, trade and consumption), by building capacities of Farmer-based Organizations (FBOs), supporting private sector development, strengthening institutional framework, supporting value addition and marketing approach. Special emphasis is placed on the participation of women in rural activities and commercial valorization of local biodiversity;
- Elaboration of an appropriate information and communication strategy aimed at sharing experiences and lessons learned among relevant stakeholders at local, national and regional level;
- Ensuring constant linkage and liaison with National Project Coordinators of the seven projects, the respective Ministries of Agriculture, FBOs, and Regional Economic Organizations (REOs).

RESULTS

- Constant monitoring and operational support to the seven national projects;
- Ensuring that lessons are shared across countries and that each project operates within the general FSCA strategy orientation intended for the West African countries;
- Annual Regional Workshops (four already organized in previous years in Senegal, Liberia, Mali and Gambia), study tours, training activities are periodically carried out to benefit project staff;
- Promotion of coordination and linkages with other donor partners and NGOs;
- Creation of a web site (www.fsc-pisa.org) which contributes to the dissemination of information on FSCA strategy for all seven country projects.

FOOD SECURITY THROUGH COMMERCIALIZATION OF AGRICULTURE (FSCA), THE GAMBIA



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety
Recipient country
The Gambia
Contribution
USD 1 963 395
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2009-2012

OBJECTIVE

Within the framework of the Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture (FSCA) strategy implemented by the Italian Trust Fund for Food Security in West Africa, the project objective is to increase on a sustainable basis the agricultural productivity, marketed output and incomes of project beneficiary Farmer-based Organizations (FBOs) and small-scale agroprocessors, resulting in improved livelihoods and food security in Gambia.

The project intends to equip service providers such as local Institutions, National Farmers Platform (NFP), National Women Farmer Association (NaWFA) and other FBOs in order to effectively promote economically and socially viable sustainable farming and off-farming enterprises. The project is implemented in the North Bank and Central River Regions, covering 12 districts and 40 farmer groups.

Specific objectives include:

- Support to Farmer-based Organizations (FBOs) and farmer support services;
- Creation of value added to production and marketing activities by leading farmers and agroprocessors in market-oriented production, value chain approach, business development, management and linkages;
- Efficient and effective project coordination with FSCA strategy at regional level.

BENEFICIARIES

- Smallholder farmers and FBOs in 40 villages;
- Women organized in farmer groups, as new leaders and farmer facilitators;
- Vulnerable and food insecure members in the communities; the direct beneficiaries are over 7 300, belonging to 4 200 households, around 90 percent were classified in the wealth ranking as poor or very poor.

STRATEGY

By focusing on the One Village One Product Concept (OVOP, a community-centred approach based on local knowledge while improving quality and marketing), the FSCA strategy in Gambia is built around the following components:

- Strengthening farmer support services and farmer groups by giving them the necessary capacity building skills, to engage them in value addition and marketing activities by improving contractual relationships with market agents;
- Implementing activities for a market-oriented production, value addition methods, business development and management;
- Project coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and subregional cooperation.

RESULTS

- Farmer groups and agroprocessors have been given relevant capacity building skills;
- Training activities have been organized, including, Training of Trainers (TOT), workshops on resource mobilization and fundraisings, on value production, good agricultural practices and post harvest techniques, business and marketing skills;
- Set up 40 Farmer Field Schools/Farmer Business Schools;
- Market appraisals and value chain studies for key regional products have been carried out;
- Agreements have been promoted between farmers, inputs suppliers and buyers;
- Access and improvement of storage systems in project sites;
- Four market-oriented OVOP centres have been established;
- A communication resource centre has been established where village seminars, field days, drama presentations and radio programs can take place;
- Ten products (groundnuts, maize, early millet, findi, rice, onions, peppers, sorrel, cashew, poultry) have been identified as preferred commodities by the groups;
- Memoranda of Understanding were signed with four key partners: Action Aid The Gambia (AATG), Management Development Institute (MDI), Department of Agriculture (DOA), Indigenous Business Advisory Services (IBAS);
- Inputs for vegetable gardens like seeds, fertilizer, fencing and materials have been provided for three communities to establish community gardens;
- Participation in Regional Workshops, that are organized annually by the FSCA project in West Africa;
- Contributing to the dissemination of information through the regional web site of the FSCA project.

DIVERSIFICATION, INTENSIFICATION AND VALORIZATION OF LOCAL AGRICULTURE (DIVA) IN OIO AND BAFATA AREAS, GUINEA BISSAU



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety
Recipient country
Guinea Bissau
Contribution
USD 1 485 951
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2008-2012

OBJECTIVE

Within the framework of the Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture (FSCA) strategy implemented by the Italian Trust Fund for Food Security in West Africa, the project objective is to increase revenue and reduce poverty of the rural population, focusing on the most vulnerable groups (women and youth) in five areas of the regions of Oio and Bafata, in Guinea Bissau, where poverty and food insecurity are the highest in the country.

The main goal remains to increase, on a sustainable basis, the agricultural productivity, marketed output and incomes of project beneficiary Farmer-based Organizations (FBOs) and small-scale agroprocessors, resulting in improved livelihoods and food security.

Specific objectives of the projects are: diversification, intensification and development of local agricultural products and short-cycle breeding products of Farmer-based organizations.

BENEFICIARIES

- Farmers and farmer organizations of the above-mentioned regions;
- Nearly 2 000 people are directly benefiting from the project activities in 40 villages in Oio and Bafata regions, indirect beneficiaries are over 8 000. Of these, 83 percent were ranked very vulnerable and 11 percent as poor.

STRATEGY

The specific activities of the project are related to: diversification, intensification and valorization of local agricultural production, by increasing the value added of the agricultural production through processing, market access, competitiveness and modernization of the agricultural sector.

The strategy focuses on three main areas:

- Diversification and intensification of agricultural production and short-cycle breeding;
- Improvement of storage and conservation capacities, processing and commercialization of products;
- Capacity building of the farmers and their groups.

RESULTS

- Rehabilitation of 2 018 ha of mangrove rice fields in 20 villages; and 740 ha of lowland rice fields;
- Digging of 40 wells for agricultural use in 39 ha of vegetable gardens;
- Construction of three storage and processing centres;
- Construction of 52 family barns;
- Introduction of small ruminants, pigs and chickens;
- Introduction of carts and donkeys to facilitate transport of agricultural commodities and goods in the Oio region;
- Introduction of cassava and groundnuts in the Oio region;
- Training of farmers and capacity building on agricultural good practices;
- Enhancing and distributing high quality seeds;
- Distribution of technical inputs and equipment for agricultural production, phytosanitaries, and inputs for the animal short-cycle breeding;
- Support to Farmer-based Organizations and groups of women;
- Introduction of communication tools, like the radio to broadcast good results at community level;
- Introduction of the commercialization approach among farmers, making them more aware of the value added to their production;
- Promotion of coordination and linkages with other donor partners, NGOs, such as Guiarroz and the Italian LVIA;
- Participation in Regional Workshops that are annually organized by the FSCA project in West Africa;
- Contributing to the dissemination of information through the regional web site of the FSCA project.

DIVERSIFICATION, INTENSIFICATION AND VALORIZATION OF LOCAL AGRICULTURE (DIVA) IN THE DISTRICT OF KINDIA, GUINEA



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety

Recipient country
Guinea

Contribution
USD 1 985 662
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2010-2012

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: WEST AFRICA

OBJECTIVE

The project goal is to reduce rural poverty and household food insecurity. The project aims at the intensification, diversification and development of agricultural production in the region of Kindia, favouring the urban and rural communities in Friguiajbé, Damakhanian, Molota and Samaya. The project contributes to the goal of Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture, under the FSCA strategy implemented by the Italian Trust Fund for Food Security in West Africa, by increasing, in a sustainable way, production and agricultural productivity, improving the marketing of products, by supporting farmer organizations (Farmer-based Organizations - FBOs) and agroprocessors, allowing better living conditions and higher levels of food safety.

BENEFICIARIES

- Producer organizations and their members;
- Rural communities of Friguiajbé, Damakhanian, Molota and Samaya.

STRATEGIES

- Supporting the establishment of producer organizations;
- Sharing information and experiences between local agricultural organizations;
- Developing a participatory approach and an equal gender balanced participation;
- Involvement of local stakeholders and building synergies among interested parties.

RESULTS

- Nearly 4 150 families (about 17 000 producers) are involved in project activities;
- Identification of the value chains to be developed: rice, findi, sesame, groundnuts, cassava and pineapple;

ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION TO FAO GLOBAL TRUST FUND FOR
FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SAFETY

- Local production and agricultural biodiversity have been intensified and strengthened, also through the partnership with the Italian Foundation Slow Food and the Swiss NGO REDD;
- Training activities to enhance the capacity and knowledge capacity of producers and their associations in terms of marketing and decision-making skills;
- Participation in Regional Workshops that are organized annually by the FSCA project in West Africa;
- Contributing to the dissemination of information through the regional web site of the FSCA project.

FOOD SECURITY THROUGH COMMERCIALIZATION OF AGRICULTURE (FSCA), LIBERIA



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety
Recipient country
Liberia
Contribution
USD 2 234 125
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2008-2012

OBJECTIVE

Within the framework of Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture (FSCA) strategy implemented by the Italian Trust Fund for Food Security in West Africa, the main project objective in Liberia is to reduce rural poverty and household food insecurity on a sustainable basis by increasing agricultural productivity, marketed output and incomes of project beneficiary Farmer-based Organizations (FBOs), as well as to improve livelihoods and food security of FBO members.

The project aims at establishing the creation of FBOs and farmer support services, by implementing market-oriented activities to add value to the local agricultural production and create linkages for smallholder farmers to markets, while ensuring efficient and effective project coordination with the FSCA at subregional level.

BENEFICIARIES

- Nearly 108 Farmer-based Organizations (FBOs) have been created with a total of 2 700 direct beneficiaries;
- By involving also farmer families, the project targets 16 200 indirect beneficiaries, in four counties: Montserrado, Nimba, Maryland and Grand Kru.

STRATEGY

The GTFS/LIR/010/ITA project started its activities in Liberia in 2008 in collaboration with the local authorities, among them the Country Agriculture Coordinators (CACs), the District Agriculture Officers Fishery Technicians (DAOs), the Cooperative Development Agency (CDA) and other local partners.

The strategy focuses on:

- Supporting the creation of Farmer-based Organizations;
- Strengthening FBO capacities in production, value addition and marketing;

- Promoting value chain coordination and linkages and enhancing marketing opportunities;
- Integrating efficient and effective project coordination and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, within the framework of Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture in West Africa.

RESULTS

- Development and organization of 108 FBOs (farmers and fisherfolk), that have a better link to local markets;
- FBOs are adopting improved production and marketing practices through knowledge acquired in Farmer Field Schools, increasing production by as much as 25 percent and as a result, also income;
- Links with banks/financial institutions were introduced and about 50 percent of FBOs have opened savings accounts;
- Training workshops for 65 FBO members, national authorities and partner staff;
- Procurement of value addition agricultural equipment and fishing inputs, such as four fish post-harvest and preservation technology platform units built in Montserrado and Grand Kru, and 11 ovens to improve fish smoking;
- Conducted value chain study and market assessment on fishery and agriculture;
- Participation in Regional Workshops, that are organized annually by the FSFA project in West Africa;
- Contributing to the dissemination of information through the regional web site of the FSFA project.

SUPPORT TO FARMER-BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN THE DOGON PLATEAU FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE VEGETABLE CROPS IN MALI



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety

Recipient country
Mali

Contribution
USD 4 199 770
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2008-2012

OBJECTIVE

The project goal is to increase the competitiveness and modernization of the agricultural sector. The project aims at the intensification, diversification and increased competitiveness of agricultural production, thereby increasing the income of small farmers, about 7 000, living in 112 villages, in the Dogon plateau, region of Mopti. The project contributes to the goal of Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture, under the FSCA strategy implemented by the Italian Trust Fund for Food Security in West Africa, by increasing production and agricultural productivity in a sustainable way, improving the marketing of products, by supporting farmer organizations (Farmer-based Organizations - FBOs) and agroprocessors, allowing better living conditions and higher levels of food safety.

BENEFICIARIES

- Producer organizations and their members;
- Rural communities of Dogon plateau.

STRATEGIES

Project activities focus on the following components:

- Strengthening the capacity of producer organizations by providing training services to farmers and governmental structures involved in the management of the horticultural sector;
- Diversification and improvement of the horticultural sector, supporting access to resources and means of production for small producers;
- Increase the added value of horticultural products and the income of vulnerable groups through the establishment of new central cooling and processing facilities and market access, for the production of onion and other vegetable crops.

RESULTS

- About 7 000 farmers involved;
- Producers' and their associations' marketing and decision-making skills have been developed;
- Improvements have been made regarding storage conditions, conservation, marketing of products through the construction of six storage facilities, 16 under construction out of a total of 32 planned. A conditioning and processing centre is also envisaged;
- Participation in Regional Workshops that are organized annually by the FSCA project in West Africa;
- Participation in the dissemination of information through the regional web site of the FSCA project.

SUPPORT TO FARMER-BASED ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROMISING SECTORS IN SENEGAL



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety
Recipient country
Senegal
Contribution
USD 3 359 688
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2008-2012

OBJECTIVE

The project objective is to support producer groups, to contribute to the value added of the agrochains, thus reducing poverty in the country, and particularly in the three rural communities of Wack Ngouna, Toubacouta and Leona. The project contributes to the goal of Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture, under the FSCA strategy implemented by the Italian Trust Fund for Food Security in West Africa, by increasing production and agricultural productivity in a sustainable way, improving the marketing of products, by supporting farmer organizations (Farmer-based Organizations - FBOs) and agroprocessors, allowing better living conditions and higher levels of food safety.

The project focuses on three main components:

1. Diversification and intensification of agricultural production in the rural community of Wack Ngouna;
2. Support fishing system in the rural community of Toubacouta;
3. Optimization of marketing of agricultural and food products, especially the onion in the rural community of Leona.

The project aims at reinforcing the skills of farmer organizations to empower them into becoming main actors in the production chain and to improve the living conditions of their members and families.

BENEFICIARIES

- Farmer organizations (1 068 at Wack Ngouna, 200 in Leona), fisherfolk (among them 1 171 women in Toubacouta) and their members;
- Groups of women involved in the project activities;
- Service providers involved in adding value to the agricultural production.

STRATEGIES

- Strengthening the capacity of organizations of producers to participate in the agricultural value chain;
- Strengthening their knowledge and skills for production and marketing, to improve the living conditions of rural communities selected by the project activities;
- Intensification and diversification of production through better access to resources and means of production;
- Increase the value of vegetable production and income of vulnerable groups;
- Improve storage systems, post-harvest process and marketing;
- Coordination and cooperation within regional FSCA intervention in West Africa.

RESULTS

- Strengthening the capacity of producers and their associations in terms of marketing and decision-making skills;
- Increase in value of horticultural production, through the construction of storage facilities and processing centres (250 tonnes of onions produced in 2011 in Leona);
- Increase the income of vulnerable groups;
- About 500 women gathered in 20 Groups of Economic Interest (GEI) have been involved in conservation activities and marketing of fish;
- Coordination and integration of the three national components at community level;
- Participation in Regional Workshops organized annually by the FSCA project in West Africa;
- Contributing to the dissemination of information through the regional web site of the FSCA project.

FOOD SECURITY THROUGH COMMERCIALIZATION OF AGRICULTURE (FSCA), SIERRA LEONE



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety
Recipient country
Sierra Leone
Contribution
USD 3 512 547
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2008-2012

OBJECTIVE

Within the framework of the Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture (FSCA) strategy implemented by the Italian Trust Fund for Food Security in West Africa, the main project objective is to reduce rural poverty and household food insecurity on a sustainable basis by increasing agricultural productivity, marketing output and incomes of project beneficiary Farmer-based Organizations (FBOs), resulting in improved livelihoods and food security of FBO members in Kono and Koinadugu districts, in Sierra Leone.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Sustainable capacity building of FBOs as effective actors in the value chain to increase production, add value, while improving the livelihood of their members;
- Supporting marketing, by building and strengthening the capacities of FBOs and service providers oriented to the value chain process, aiming at coordination and linkages among the main stakeholders;
- Efficient end effective project coordination and cooperation with the FSCA at subregional level.

BENEFICIARIES

- Smallholder farmers and producers organized in existing or newly established farmer-based organizations, which are engaged in production, processing and/or marketing of agricultural produce;
- Women's associations, particularly those involved in rural activities and take part in the production process, as leaders or facilitators;
- Most vulnerable and food insecure members in the communities of Kono and Koinadugu districts; approximately 15 000 are directly involved in project activities;
- County level associations and county governments.

STRATEGY

The strategy consists in developing networks of FBOs, identifying value addition and diversified opportunities, in order to support farmers (producers and processors) to better respond to market demands. At the same time the project is aimed at building the capacity of farmers in both technical and organizational skills, rebuilding trust within communities and creating a common development vision. Partnership with other projects, implemented through the support of International Organizations like IFAD, World Bank, EU and other development partners, has been an advantage for the FSCA project in Sierra Leone, also to consolidate a sustainable approach.

This new approach has led to a change in strategy orientation from subsistence agriculture to a more modern and dynamic commercial farming, with potential for growth and development for smallholder farmers. In fact, FBOs are signing contracts with supermarkets to sell surplus milled rice and honey periodically.

RESULTS

- Approximately 300 FFS, 60 FBOs and 30 Agricultural Business Centres (ABC) have been established and managed;
- Increased input and machinery support to FBOs and ABCs for the promotion of crop diversification;
- Capacity building of FBOs and ABCs in food processing, packaging/labelling and marketing;
- Training on use of various types of machinery: power tillers, rice cutters, rice threshers, rice hullers and mills, rice reapers, cassava graters, honey processors and on the formation of cooperatives and limited liability companies (LLC);
- Addressing constraints and establishing linkages along the value chain;
- Participation in Regional Workshops organized annually by the FSCA project in West Africa;
- Contribution to the dissemination of information through the regional web site of the FSCA project.

FOOD SECURITY THROUGH ENHANCED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DIVERSIFIED SOURCES OF INCOME, VALUE ADDITION AND MARKETING IN BANGLADESH



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety
Recipient country
Bangladesh
Contribution
USD 2 954 210
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2010-2014

OBJECTIVE

The project goal is to increase agricultural production, sources of income, value added and marketing, through support to farming organizations that are located in the northern villages of Bangladesh (Mymensingh and Sherpur districts), focusing on Village-based Organizations (VBOs) approach, resulting in improvement of general living conditions and food security.

Poverty and food security are still two major issues in Bangladesh. The level of overall food security is low, as well as the incomes of rural families. The inhabitants of rural areas constitute about 85 percent of the total population. Hence the problem of food insecurity is interlinked to other contingent needs of the population, including the need to: increase the productivity of small agricultural producers, enhance the possibilities for smallholders to generate income through better access to markets, increase available resources within the communities selected by the project.

By responding to these needs, local communities will be able to identify more clearly their limitations and their potential, reach consensus on possible solutions, and identify external sources of support.

The project aims to:

- Develop the skills, knowledge and opportunities for the organizations of small producers;
- Promote the diversification of the agricultural system, agro-processing and post-harvest activities with the introduction of modern technologies and new income generating initiatives;
- Strengthening the capacity of local institutions.

BENEFICIARIES

- Rural areas and villages in the north of the country;
- Producer organizations and their members;
- Women involved in the project activities and households in rural communities.

STRATEGY

- Organization of groups of producers, to empower them on sustainable agricultural practices;
- Diversification of livelihoods, by promoting market access and development;
- Access to financial services, through the Credit Revolving Fund, available to individuals and communities as a whole;
- These components provide the necessary support to rural communities to enable them to identify and adopt new technologies, identify and respond to market opportunities, and obtain funds to invest in local needs.

RESULTS

- Supporting communities, members of the VBOs, especially women and vulnerable households and strengthening their capacities;
- Strengthening the role of institutions as a guide to identify, plan, invest and manage funds;
- Creation of about 400 Farmers Field Schools (FFS) during the project, of which women should constitute at least 50 percent, for the adoption of sustainable good agricultural practices;
- Starting or expanding commercial activities that will benefit the members of the communities and therefore will ensure sustainability to project activities;
- Increasing the income of small producers and food security for both direct project beneficiaries and all other persons living in the target villages;
- Boosting collaboration with local institutions and creating partnerships and synergies with other projects funded by FAO and international donors in Bangladesh.

SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR FOOD SECURITY IN NORTH KOREA



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety
Recipient country
North Korea
Contribution
USD 800 000
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2012–2013

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: ASIA AND PACIFIC

OBJECTIVE

The overall impact of the project is to ensure that the population has access to foods needed to lead a healthy active life. The project aims to increase agricultural production and productivity, improving efficiency and sustainability of cooperatives involved in the project activities.

The proposed activities are a continuation of the project GCSP/DRK/003/ITA, funded since 2009, within the framework of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in North Korea. The overall objective of the SPFS is to strengthen food security, reduce poverty and improve rural economy and the nutritional well-being.

The current project therefore follows the results achieved by the previous project, supporting both the strategy and objectives in the medium and long term: increasing the productivity of agriculture; boosting incomes; and increasing the production of wheat to cover the needs of cereal consumption. The main problems faced by the agricultural sector are related to the low yields and soil fertility, lack of appropriate varieties of crops and limited diversification, low level of mechanization, weak management of post-harvest and agroprocessing stages, lack of efficient structures for quality control and management of water.

Project activities are based on the involvement of agricultural cooperatives, which represent the most important organizational structure for local production and thus mainly contribute to achieve food security in the country.

BENEFICIARIES

- Three producer cooperatives directly involved in the project activities;
- Households in about 30 villages;
- Indirect benefits for the entire population.

ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION TO FAO GLOBAL TRUST FUND FOR
FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SAFETY

STRATEGY

The project involves three cooperative farms in the country. The projects supports largely conservation agriculture, rice production in lowland areas, modernization of water pumps, water management and watershed management combined with beneficiary involvement in scheme design, construction and training, which shall ensure sustainable technical transfer to and capacity development of target groups. The project aims to modernize agricultural techniques through a participatory approach, ensuring both sustainable development and transfer of technical knowledge and capacity building of farmers. The project also supports policy and institutional capacity building measures in the Ministry of Agriculture and strengthening irrigation planning, design and supervision capacity in the Irrigation Institute as well supporting provincial and county management committees, and other relevant institutions.

RESULTS

- Improved food security for the population;
- Increased crop yields, increased productivity and increased rural income-generating activities;
- Diversified and balanced agricultural production, addressing the problem of nutritional deficiency and creating direct marketing channels;
- Promotion of sustainable agricultural production system, reducing post-harvest losses;
- More efficient use of farm resources.

REGIONAL INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) PROGRAMME IN THE NEAR EAST



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety

Recipient countries
Algeria, Egypt, Iran,
Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon,
Morocco, Palestinian
Territories, Syria and
Tunisia

Contribution
USD 8 609 371
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2004–2013

OBJECTIVE

The project objective is to contribute to the achievement of food security and improve the nutritional status of the rural population through the development and implementation of sustainable agricultural practices involving local farming communities.

The project aims at building the capacity of relevant local authorities and farming communities on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in order to achieve a sustainable intensification of crop production by maintaining and enhancing agrobiodiversity, reducing pesticide related risks, improving livelihood conditions of the rural communities and improving access to national and international markets.

The project promotes local adaptation of IPM strategies in several horticultural crops, building on farmer participation and understanding of local ecosystems using the Farmer Field School (FFS) methodology; furthermore, it contributes to the protection of farming communities, their environment, and consumers and to the expansion of high value crop markets. The project has ten member countries: Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Syria and Tunisia. The original overall goal of the project is to improve food security and nutritional status of the rural population of the Near East by: i) Promoting adaptation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to local ecosystems on horticultural crops through the Farmers Field School Approach; ii) Enhancing sustainable crop production and reducing the application of chemical pesticides.

However since January 2011 when the last extension was obtained, the project focus has slightly changed to consolidate the IPM/FFS approach in four countries recently involved in the project (Algeria, Iraq, Morocco and Tunisia) and to sustain the results achieved in the Region and strengthen the Regional IPM network.



Therefore, while the overall objective remains valid and unchanged, the immediate objectives have been updated as follow:

- Consolidation of the IPM/FFS approach and capacity building process in the Maghreb area (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) and in Iraq;
- Support to the institutionalization and sustainability of IPM in the Near East Region;
- Investigate the feasibility and possible set-up of a Regional IPM and FFS Platform.

BENEFICIARIES

- The respective Ministries of Agriculture, other relevant institutions and farming communities of the target countries.
- Women involved in project activities.
- National and regional markets and consumers.

STRATEGY

The project has been operational in promoting local adaptation of IPM strategies in six countries of the Near East Region (Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian Territories and Syria) since 2004. In late 2009, activities were expanded also to Algeria, Iraq, Morocco and Tunisia and the achieved results consolidated, focusing on the promotion of IPM strategies to horticultural crops and farmers' participation and understanding of local ecosystems, through Farmer Field School (FFS) methodology.

IPM/FFS activities have been carried out in each country targeted by the project to promote:

- Capacity building and strengthening of IPM/FFS approach, taking into account local ecosystems and promoting the participation of women in Project activities;
- Strengthening the framework for sound pest-free crop management;
- Sharing information and establishing partnership for a broad IPM approach among countries;
- Improving access to markets;
- Development of a comprehensive strategy to promote IPM strategy and crop management in the region.

RESULTS

- More than 1 091 IPM/FFS established; training carried out with 2 181 MoA staff and officials from other institutions; civil society representatives and farmers trained as facilitators; and more than 16 245 farmers trained directly by the project in the ten participating countries;
- On average 28 percent of the facilitators, and 15 percent of the farmers are women;
- Pesticide utilization reduced to 51-73 percent throughout the targeted areas of the Region;
- On average, 8 percent higher yield levels obtained throughout the targeted areas of the Region;



- IPM/FFS became a consolidated participatory extension methodology, fully incorporated and budgeted in the annual plans of some of the target countries, i.e. Algeria (recently proposed), Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Palestinian Territories and Syria, where National IPM strategy Programmes have also been introduced;
- The project partners (i.e. Institutions, individual farmers and MOA staff) received several awards for their special contribution to improving agricultural standards at local community or country level in several participating countries. This approach has already resulted in tangible benefits for farmers in the Near East participating countries that have achieved improvements in economic, health, social and environmental areas;
- In Iran, interested stakeholders (i.e. farmers, consumers, and other related representatives from the public and private sectors) created the IPM Group of Iran in early 2010, for the commercialization of IPM products. More than 100 members have already joined the Group, which is supported now also by the local Municipalities, such as Tehran;
- In Syria, an IPM label was established in support of marketing apples and tomatoes produced by the farmers who participated in the IPM/FFS project;
- A project web site has been created as a regional platform (**www.ipm-neareast.com**);
- Other similar initiatives at group or individual levels have started up in other project countries like Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestinian Territories.

PROMOTING CARICOM/ CARIFORUM FOOD SECURITY



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety

Recipient countries
Antigua and Barbuda,
Bahamas, Barbados,
Belize, Dominica,
Dominican Republic,
Grenada, Guyana, Haiti,
Jamaica, Saint Kitts
and Nevis, Saint Lucia,
St Vincent and the
Grenadines, Suriname,
Trinidad and Tobago

Contribution
USD 8 900 900
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2003-2012

OBJECTIVE

The general objective is to improve food security in CARICOM countries (Caribbean Community and Common Market) both individually and at regional level, by increasing the availability and access to adequate quantities of safe, quality assured food products, for poor rural communities.

This project has been implemented by developing a value chain approach for food production, for the commercialization of agriculture, through the strengthening of support services for smallholder producers and the promotion of a sound institutional environment for an efficient and sustainable food security.

Like many other regions of the world, in recent years the Caribbean region has been experiencing a decrease in its agricultural productivity, hence a strong dependency and vulnerability. This problem, with inadequate trade policy, has resulted in a reduction of revenue from traditional crops and consequent increase in poverty. Therefore, the project aims to promote greater food security, poverty reduction and environmental protection in the management of natural resources and strengthening of agricultural policies.

The GTFS/RLA/141/ITA project, supported by the Government of Italy through FAO, falls under the strategy of the Regional Special Programme for Food Security CARIFORUM (Forum of the Caribbean ACP States), which is part of the FAO Special Programme for Food Security – the FAO flagship initiative for reaching the first Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of hungry people in the world by 2015.

The project has now concluded its second phase.

BENEFICIARIES

- Groups of farmers and associations of small producers and rural communities;
- Partners of the agrifood chain, such as service providers, retailers, associations, private sector and institutions at national and regional level;
- CARICOM/CARIFORUM, as an organization of 15 countries in the Caribbean region.

STRATEGY

- Phase I (2003-2007): this phase included activities both at national level, to demonstrate how farm productivity can be improved through efficient, effective and sustainable water resource-related production systems (vertical component), and, at regional level to develop trade negotiations, food security assessment in the Caribbean, policies and marketing (horizontal component).
- Phase II (2008-2010): during this phase, the food security projects of FAO, funded by Italy and implemented in the Dominican Republic and Haiti (GTFS/DOM/010/ITA: *"Strengthening the management capacity and to improve food security in communities of El Estero and El Tamarindo"* and GTFS/HAI/018/ITA: *"Promotion of food security"*) were integrated into this regional project to improve food security in the 15 CARICOM Member States, implementing the following activities:
 - 1) Strengthening the capacity of CARICOM/CARIFORUM to support regional efforts to formulate, implement and monitor regional policies related to food security, including in the areas of agriculture, nutrition and trade;
 - 2) Support the establishment of effective institutional mechanisms at regional and national level to increase the overall value and quality of food products, for consumption and commercialization, by expanding non-traditional agriculture production, enhancing the trading of fresh and processed products, developing enterprises and promoting investments.

RESULTS

- Improved food insecurity monitoring system and information at national and regional level, through mapping system on food insecurity and vulnerability (Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information Mapping System - FIVIMS);
- Capacity building of farmers on marketing, production skills and agroprocessing;
- Knowledge and transfer of advanced technology to increase quantity and quality of agricultural products;
- Selection of agrifood value chains, with better access to local and international markets;
- Process of integration of agricultural policies and institutional framework for agribusiness and enterprise development;
- Implementation of training courses for local staff;
- Partnership and strategic market alliances;
- Strengthening farmer capacities to organize themselves in associations of producers and gain better opportunities in the agricultural value chain;
- Dissemination of information, creating a project web site and distribution of a newsletter among project stakeholders.

STRENGTHENING SUBREGIONAL MECHANISM TO SUPPORT ERADICATION OF THE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) IN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ANDEAN COMMUNITY OF NATIONS (CAN)



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety
Recipient countries
Bolivia, Colombia,
Ecuador and Peru
Contribution
USD 1 750 000
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)
Duration
2010-2013

OBJECTIVE

The immediate goal of the project is to contribute to the progressive control and eradication of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) in the Andean countries, reducing the negative impact of the disease on food security for the most vulnerable families and communities. The project aims at improving the technical and management capacities of national veterinary services and strengthening the participation of smallholders in the FMD control programs.

Capacity building activities include training of national experts, up-dating laboratory equipment and enhancing diagnostic capabilities, improving surveillance and information systems, as well as, facilitating the access of smallholders to veterinary services and animal and public health information. A Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) for FMD is implemented recognizing the specific socio-economic and agro-ecological conditions of these countries, the characteristics of the livestock production system, the high number of livestock family systems, and the institutional, political and cultural context. Increasing levels of coordination and harmonization between countries is a key aspect for the success of the project.

The project immediate objectives are:

- Support subregional coordination mechanisms for the control and eradication of FMD in countries of the CAN;
- Improve the systems for monitoring, prevention and eradication of FMD at national and regional level, through enhancing animal health infrastructure, training of technical personnel

of veterinary services and implementing new participatory strategies to better approach animal health authorities and local communities;

- Reduce the FMD risk, improve food security and facilitate the development and activation of an operational plan against animal diseases for the countries of the CAN.

BENEFICIARIES

- Small livestock farmers and producers of animal products;
- National Veterinary Services and private institutions;
- Rural communities and consumers.

STRATEGIES

In order to implement a progressive control and eradication of FMD pathway, including a preventive system at regional level, FAO is carrying out two projects in the region, one financed by the Italian Cooperation (GTFS/RLA/172/ITA in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and Colombia), and the other funded by the Spanish Cooperation (GCP/RLA/178/SPA in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia and Venezuela). The two projects have similar goals, which involve the CAN member countries and converge in the implementation of a single Integrated Regional Project for the Progressive Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in order to achieve greater efficiency in use of resources and effectiveness of international cooperation in the fight against FMD and other animal diseases.

The Integrated Regional Project has been structured to combine four critical dimensions to address the FMD problem in the region: a) technical approaches linked to improve risk management, prevention and control systems; b) capacity-building, education and communication; c) sanitary policy, normative harmonization and regional coordination; and d) institutional development and partnerships for the sustainability of the FMD programs.

RESULTS

- Better coordination and harmonization of regional strategies: strengthening a regional coordination body (Advisory Technical Committee for Agricultural Health: COTASA) and development of technical and policy tools aimed at strengthening national regulations and promoting uniform management strategies for control and eradication of FMD in the Andean Region;
- Improved management capabilities of the Official Veterinary Services: tools aimed at strengthening the Official Veterinary Services managerial capacities and mechanisms for sustainability of national FMD programs;
- Strengthened National FMD control Programs: improvement and/or development of technical management tools and FMD risk mitigation measures, consistent with the Progressive Control Strategy (PCS) and training of human resources;
- Improved access of smallholders and livestock producers to Veterinary Services and animal health information: technical guidelines to improve risk communication and management, sanitary education and advocacy strategies at national and regional level developed and animal and public health education campaigns for family livestock producers designed;
- Technical and Operational Support: achieve effective management oriented to national and regional results. Monitoring and evaluation system of the integrated regional project as a basis for the implementation of a result-based management strategy.
- Foot-and-Mouth Disease outbreaks have significantly decreased. FMD outbreaks have not occurred in the international borders of Peru-Ecuador, Colombia-Ecuador and Colombia-Venezuela, thus showing an improvement of the epidemiological situation in the Region;



- Bolivia, with the technical support of the FAO project, is prepared to apply for the recognition of the Andean Highland region as FMD-free without vaccination zone. It is the culmination of nearly two working years of technical assistance and capacity building. The benefited area covers over 150 000 km² and involves more than 24 000 owners of cattle belonging to indigenous communities grouped in 2 300 communities;
- Peru is ready to extend the recognized FMD-free zone without vaccination with the technical support of the project. The country will present the technical dossier to the OIE for recognition of the coastal strip including the districts and provinces of the Departments of Lima, Ancash, La Libertad, Lambayeque, part of Piura and Cajamarca. The project provided assistance in epidemiological surveillance in order to improve early detection of FMD cases, and improve the emergency system response. The new area will increase to 98 percent of Peruvian territory internationally recognized as FMD-free without vaccination;
- A Project web site (www.rlc.fao.org/es/prioridades/transfron/aftosa/proyec) and a bi-monthly Newsletter have been created for the dissemination of project activities at country and regional level.

IMPROVING EFFICIENCY, FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY STANDARDS OF THE SELECTED AGRIFOOD CHAINS IN CENTRAL AMERICA: EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and
Food Safety

Recipient countries
El Salvador, Guatemala,
Honduras, Nicaragua

Contribution
USD 5 908 419
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2011-2014

OBJECTIVE

This regional project aims to improve food security in four Central American countries, through enhanced marketing of agricultural products, improved value addition and increased efficiency of selected agricultural value chains.

Most small farmers in these countries have weak market linkages and fail to add value to their products, thus causing a negative impact on income, food security and employment generation. The strategy adopted aims at opening up new market opportunities for small farmers, allowing them to fully participate in chain productivity. This requires overcoming numerous limitations, such as underdeveloped market linkages, poor product quality and safety, and competition with products from other countries.

The project addresses these problems using the agricultural value chain approach, covering different sectors: from post-harvest to processing and marketing of products in local and international markets. The project also aims to promote partnerships, information sharing and collaboration among the concerned countries, while contributing to regional integration and development policies and strategies in Central America.

BENEFICIARIES AND PARTNERS

- Approximately 3 500 small and medium farmers and their organizations;
- Service providers and other actors involved in the selected agrifood chains;
- Consumers will have access to a greater availability of safe and better quality food products;
- Local institutions and regional organizations, such as CAC (Central American Agricultural Council), IICA (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture) and Red-SICTA (*Red de Innovaciòn Agrícola*).

STRATEGY

The project has four national components, which are complemented by a regional component responsible for coordination, dialogue with regional bodies (for example to strengthen the Central American agricultural policy), and systematization of agrifood chain experiences.

At national level, the strategy includes:

- The provision of technical assistance and strengthening of producer associations that will be trained to improve their managerial, administrative, marketing and financial skills;
- Promotion of selected agrifood chains, enhancing marketing of crops and value addition, for the benefit of small farmers and agribusinesses and their organizations.

RESULTS

The expected project outcomes are: i) the promotion of food chains with a focus on marketing and value addition; ii) harmonization of regional food quality and safety standards, and trade and agro-industrial policies in order to develop a modern and competitive agricultural sector in the region.

At national level:

- Improve the competitiveness and inclusiveness of selected agricultural value chains through the creation of marketing and value addition opportunities for small producers;
- Improve compliance with quality and safety standards;
- Provide support to producer organizations and other value chain actors;
- Support the public sector at central and local levels to ensure the sustainability of activities in terms of marketing and value chain promotion.

At regional level:

- Sharing information and experiences through the creation of knowledge exchange *fora*;
- Promoting dialogue on the systematization of experiences and the harmonization, and formulation of agricultural policies and strategies;
- Creating strategic alliances and synergies with actors in selected agrifood chains, with the support of local institutions (Red SICTA), and key partners such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Unidad Regional de Asistencia Técnica (RUTA) and international agencies and donors.

CONTROLLING TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES IN CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES



Implementing partner
Italian Contribution to
FAO Global Trust Fund for
Food Security and Food
Safety

Recipient countries
Afghanistan, Pakistan,
Tajikistan, Turkmenistan
and Uzbekistan

Contribution
USD 6 747 124
(Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Duration
2004–2012

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this project is to contribute to the fight against poverty and food insecurity, reducing livestock production losses caused by infectious diseases. The project has also contributed significantly to the global programme for rinderpest eradication (the first animal disease to be globally eradicated).

Among the majority of the rural population in Central Asian countries, livestock is an important component of household income, and diseases such as rinderpest (now eradicated), Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) have a significant economic impact. Thanks to the Italian Contribution to the FAO Global Trust Fund for Food Security, this project seeks to assist countries in developing the capabilities to control Transboundary Animal Diseases (TAD) and to mitigate and minimize the negative impact on food security.

The project enables national veterinary services to gain a better understanding of the spread and impact of TAD and then to plan and implement appropriate control measures according to the available resources.

The beneficiary countries are: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Iran, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan participate in regional meetings as observers.

Specific results of the project are:

- Leading beneficiary countries to comply with the necessary procedures to obtain the Officially Free from Rinderpest status, in accordance with the requirements of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE);
- Deepening the knowledge and the impact of major infectious diseases for domestic animals, such as Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD). This is necessary to plan activities for controlling and reducing production losses, and promoting trade;
- Promotion of coordination and exchange of information between beneficiaries and neighbouring countries;
- Establishing national programmes for the control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TAD).

BENEFICIARIES

- National Veterinary Services;
- Producers and their associations in the livestock industry;
- Consumers;
- Children, women and families of the rural communities.

STRATEGY

- Collection, analysis and distribution of information on FMD and PPR, as well as on other animal diseases in order to plan strategies for prevention and control of TADs;
- Development of diagnostic skills within the national veterinary laboratories;
- Promotion of epidemiology veterinary training at national level;
- Organization of regional workshops to promote epidemiology techniques in planning, monitoring and surveillance of veterinary activities;
- Assistance to national veterinary authorities and promotion of vaccination campaigns;
- Dissemination of results and experiences through international conferences and workshops.

RESULTS

All countries participating in the project GTFS/INT/907/ITA have been officially recognized as free from rinderpest. Following the achievement of the project goal and in close collaboration with the European Commission for the Control of FMD (EuFMD), the project has contributed to the creation of innovative tools to support developing countries in facing transboundary infectious progressive animal diseases.

Project countries have been supported in terms of:

- Procurement of equipment and laboratory facilities to perform enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and bimolecular tests (Real-Time PCR) with the aim of improving the performance of national veterinary laboratories in each country;
- Access to information about the presence of PPR and FMD;
- Improved capacity to develop monitoring and evaluation systems for domestic animal diseases;
- Identification of priorities in programmes for disease control.



SUPPORT TO INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF DORI, BURKINA FASO



Partners

Italy/FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme and Province of Bolzano

Recipient country

Municipality of Dori, Burkina Faso

Budget

USD 300 000

(Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs),
USD 300 000

(Italian Province of Bolzano);

USD 60 000

(Local Contribution of Dori)

Duration

2012-2015

OBJECTIVE

FAO collaborates with the Province of Bolzano, since 2006, under the framework of Italy/FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme, through a joint project for integrated development of the Province of Tapoa (GDCP/BKF/001/ITA - “Support to integrated development of the Province of Tapoa (Burkina Faso)”). This project, which ended in 2010, has experienced considerable success, thus encouraging the national and local government of Burkina Faso to apply the same methodology in the Municipality of Dori.

The Government of Burkina Faso is interested in strategies that aim at the preservation and enhancement of water resources, combating desertification and adaptation to climate change. For this reason, the project aims to contribute to the fight against poverty and food insecurity by improving agricultural production and animal breeding, income diversification, capacity building of local actors (in particular women and youth) and through the management of water resources.

BENEFICIARIES

The project is targeted to small farmers in arid areas, with particular attention to women seeking to develop their strategies and adapt to environmental changes. In particular, the project will involve the Municipality of Dori and about 700 families living in the villages of Dantchadi, Touka Bayel and neighbourhoods. At the institutional level, managers and technicians of the City of Dori and decentralized structures benefit from the project through training and knowledge exchanges at institutional level.

STRATEGIES

The project was identified by a joint mission FAO/Bolzano, which visited the country in March 2010. The project is implemented in synergy and coordination with the project GCP/INT/092/ITA “*Development of Water Harvesting Techniques for Agriculture on a small scale in Burkina Faso and Tunisia*” (whose profile is presented in this book), to improve access to water in the Municipality of Dori.

In particular, the project will facilitate the most disadvantaged populations through the creation of access systems to drinking water. The improvement of traditional water-harvesting systems (*boulis*) will make the resource available for livestock during the dry season, by enhancing the value of approximately 10 ha of land, managed by groups of farmers, especially women. Beneficiaries will be supported by strengthening groups and organizations of farmers, able to take responsibility for the management and maintenance of water access points.

The planned activities are also aimed at strengthening the technical, organizational and material needs of beneficiaries through training programs. In addition, the project will support the diversification of production, particularly through the development of horticultural production, allowing the most vulnerable groups (women and youth) to increase their incomes and their livelihoods.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The project is expected to produce results in relation to:

- Improving access to water with drinking water distribution system, the drilling of wells for pastoral and agricultural use;
- Increased standard of living for women and young people through income generating activities, and access to new information and communication technologies;
- Increased efficiency of local water management, through training of local representatives, local and technical services through the implementation of small pilot projects;
- Improved technical capacity of local producers and services to agriculture and nutrition.

URBAN AND PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE IN KIGALI (PAPUK), RWANDA – PHASE II



Partners

Italy/FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme and City of Rome

Resource country

City of Kigali, Rwanda

Budget

USD 814 237 (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), USD 262 097 (City of Rome), USD 26 468 (Novo Nordisk Private Company); USD 121 233 (Local Contribution City of Kigali)

Duration

2004-2012

OBJECTIVES

The project originates from a tripartite agreement, signed in 2003 between the City of Kigali, the City of Rome and FAO, which established a partnership aimed at fostering collaboration between the two capitals and FAO, starting with a project on urban and peri-urban agriculture. The project was co-funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through FAO and the City of Rome.

Known as PAPUK (*Projet d'Agriculture Urbaine et Periurbaine de Kigali*), the project objectives fall within the plans of the Government of Rwanda to reduce poverty through the promotion of food security and the fight against hunger. Its development objective was to contribute to the achievement of food security in the City of Kigali and its peri-urban areas, improve the quantity and quality of food availability and the stability of supply and accessibility for the whole population.

The specific project objectives refer to four main areas: water and soil management, horticulture, livestock and agroforestry systems.

BENEFICIARIES

The project beneficiaries are the associations of low-income farmers, as well as women, youth and the unemployed.

STRATEGIES

The project was conceived as a tool to facilitate access to external funding (mainly from the World Bank and EU) in support of marshland reclamation and rural development. However, these resources did not materialize due to changes in programme orientation by the WB and EU. Thus the project activities focused only on the selected areas of work. After three years of operations (January 2004-December 2006), there was a consensus among the partners that the project should be followed by a second phase (PAPUK II) with revised objectives within the goal of improving food security in the urban and peri-urban areas of Kigali, at the request of the Municipality of Kigali and in view of the good results achieved during Phase I.



Phase I (2004-2007)

The main issues dealt with during this period were:

- Water management and soil productivity;
- Intensification of agricultural production;
- Crop diversification for consumption and marketing (cash crops);
- Promotion of cooperatives and associations of farmers, in particular women and children;
- Analysis of constraints to food production and distribution.

Phase II (2007-2012)

Phase II was re-oriented to include the following main components:

- Integrated use of water for microgardens including training and demonstration centres and production units at household level (cisterns, microgardens, waste management and compost production);
- Integrated management of the marshland of Kajevuba (District of Gasabo) including reforestation and erosion protection of the hillsides;
- Diversification of crop production and optimization of the whole cycle from production to market, including fruit trees.

RESULTS

The activities implemented so far have contributed to the attainment of overall objectives and practical results in the following areas:

- Rehabilitation and reclamation of marshlands for agricultural production;
- Anti-erosion system through the use of terraced hills and forestry and agroforestry to improve environmental conditions;
- Rehabilitation of infrastructure techniques, including small irrigation systems;
- Improved capacity of technical staff of community associations;
- Larger availability of land for agricultural production and trade opportunities;
- Better employment opportunities in agriculture and livestock;
- Improved supply of agricultural products for the needs of the urban population;
- Environmental protection through tree-plantation and training in agroforestry techniques (*semaine de l'arbre*);
- Availability of fresh vegetables for both consumption and marketing through the introduction and use of urban micro-garden technology;
- Improved use of fertilizers from compost and waste recycling;
- Upgraded professionalism and management capacity in the agricultural sector of urban and peri-urban Kigali.

CONSOLIDATION OF MICRO-GARDENS AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL IN SUPPORT OF FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION IN DAKAR, SENEGAL - PHASE II



Partners

Italy/FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme, Municipality of Milan, University of Milan, COOPI and ACRA NGOs

Recipient country

Senegal

Budget

USD 500 000 (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), USD 515 000 (Municipality of Milan), and USD 30 000 (Dubai Municipality through Dubai Award UN Habitat)

Duration

2006–2013

OBJECTIVE

Promote the development and expansion of micro-gardens at household level to improve nutrition of the poorest families in Dakar.

The project is part of the Italy/FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme, as a result of an agreement between FAO and the Municipalities of Milan and Dakar. It was launched in 2006 and it is currently in its second phase. The project aims to improve food security in the city of Dakar by strengthening the system of urban home gardens through training and support of beneficiaries.

The main project objectives are: i) strengthen farmers associations and groups of home gardens, including support for access to credit, inputs and markets; ii) increase the number of home garden growers; iii) strengthen cooperation between City of Milan City of Dakar, to improve decision-making capacity of local institutions; iv) improve the capacity of association, organizational and managerial skills of local beneficiaries; v) explore the local markets and propose a methodology for the marketing of home gardens products in Senegal.

The weather conditions are favourable in Dakar and allow the cultivation of vegetable home gardens, terraces and small areas, both for domestic consumption and for sale locally.

This technology has been introduced in Dakar in 1999 by FAO on the basis of experience in Latin America. The home gardens were later integrated into the National Special Programme for Food Security and set up in urban areas, with the support of the Senegalese government, between 2001 and 2003.



The project was selected by UN Habitat from among more than 500 other projects, as the best one and it received the “Dubai Award” in 2009, thus obtaining 30 000 dollars to support the activities of the second phase.

BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries are the most disadvantaged and neediest families in Dakar; but indirectly also local authority technical services and planning, public and private institutions and universities could benefit from the project activities.

STRATEGIES

One single home garden can provide an average of six cycles of crop per year, with an output of up to 30 kg of vegetables per month. The growers can use part of the production to feed their families and sell the surplus in local markets as a source of additional income.

The project aims to establish an organizational structure made up of centres for training and demonstration for urban garden farmers, in order to allow people to acquire inputs, to access training and testing mechanisms for marketing the surplus. It is also expected to include the system of urban gardens into the strategy of the city Dakar for Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (AUP), in order to ensure sustainability to this sector. This project has been included in the FAO programme, Growing Greener Cities.

RESULTS

The project involves about 7 500 families in the production and sale of urban garden products, through the creation of six training and demonstration centres. In order to ensure a participatory approach, and raise awareness of local communities and their associations, information material has been produced on home gardens in order to illustrate the advantages of the AUP.

Through an analysis of benefits and disadvantages regarding the system of urban home gardens, a system of collection and data entry will be finalized in the FAO database *Hortivar*. Italian NGOs (COOPI and ACRA) and local NGOs actively participate in this project, as well as the Cities of Dakar and Milan, the University of Milan and public and private institutes.

DEVELOPMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE CAZA OF MARJAYOUN, LEBANON



Partners

Italy/FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme, AVSI and Region of Lombardy

Recipient countries

Caza of Marjayoun, Lebanon

Budget

USD 300 000 (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), USD 364 000 (Region of Lombardy) and USD 226 000 (AVSI)

Duration

2011-2013

OBJECTIVE

The development goal is to strengthen local and national capacities to increase agricultural productivity, focusing on enhancing water demand management and increasing agricultural productivity through technical assistance and capacity building programmes. Coping with water scarcity is a flagship programme of cooperation between Italy and FAO.

The introduction of modern and flexible irrigation systems will allow farmers and water managers to reduce water losses and invest in modern irrigation techniques. One of the aims of the project is to upgrade the technical skills of farmers and to form efficient associations of water users.

The Governorate of Marjayoun, located in Nabatyeh in the South-East Lebanon is one of the most affected areas in the country, especially due to the devastating effects of the 2006 conflict on the irrigation system and water canalization.

BENEFICIARIES

Target beneficiaries are more than 42 000 people living in the five villages, the agricultural producers of the Marjayoun area and the municipal staff, through increased availability of water for irrigation and more modern infrastructure.

STRATEGY

This project is implemented together with local, national and international counterparts in partnerships with the Region of Lombardy and AVSI Foundation (Association of Volunteers for International Service) under the Italy/FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme (IFDCP).

The project will contribute to Lebanon's agricultural development through the implementation of a modernization plan for the management of irrigation schemes. More specifically, the project foresees the following results:



- Contributing towards improved water management for irrigation;
- Contributing to improve the knowledge of farmers and local authorities with regard to new irrigation technology and management practices to enhance the efficiency and the productivity of water use.

RESULTS

The project is currently at its initial stages and its present operations are based on the work carried out by the Foundation AVSI, focused on the reinforcement of local and national capacities to cope with water scarcity in a pilot irrigation scheme and in the improvement of local infrastructure, in order to expand the areas under irrigated cultivation in the area of Marjayoun.

The project is closely related to other Italian funded FAO projects in the Near East, in particular to the project GCP/INT/124/ITA - *Coping with water (Phase III): Strengthening National Capacities in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria* (the project file is presented in this book).



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