



Members' Update

# FAO renewal

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## Steady progress in strengthening partnerships

Work is pressing ahead on efforts to enhance FAO's working relationships with external partners as a means to achieving its global goals.

Partnerships was highlighted under the Immediate Plan of Action and is a core function under the strategic framework.

Mariam Ahmed, IPA project leader for partnerships, said progress was being made in building on FAO's work in this area. This includes a corporate partnership strategy, which includes providing practical guidance to FAO units and partners on selection, prioritization, development and management of new or renewed partnerships.

Other elements include staff training along with monitoring and evaluation. A website is also being created as an ongoing source of information.

"Fulfilment of FAO's mandate as the global broker of essential knowledge depends on effective and strategic partnerships," said Ahmed.

"One area involves mapping the extent of existing partnerships through speaking with technical staff and colleagues in decentralized offices. We can learn what is being done well, so it can be adopted elsewhere, and what needs improving."

Ahmed underlined that FAO partnerships have been an important part of the Organization's work since its inception. These ties cover the broad spectrum, incorporating the UN family – with

emphasis placed on the Rome-based agencies of WFP and IFAD – international financial institutions, civil society, NGOs, private sector, research and academic institutions.

She said: “It’s important that we further leverage the strength of other organizations and combine it with FAO’s own areas of expertise and ability.”

To help enable this, a Partnerships Committee was formed in January 2010 to coordinate, monitor and develop FAO’s relations with non-governmental groups and the private sector. At the same time, the CEB (Chief Executives Board) Committee was set up to ensure FAO is working in cooperation with other organizations across the UN system.

Examples of successful partnerships already in place were highlighted to FAO Members recently during a presentation on the fringes of FAO Council. This included technical officers from fisheries describing FAO’s work on [Globefish](#), a public-private partnership that exchanges trade and market information and which includes public sector and government bodies, private sector, universities, producers and traders.

Among other work discussed was collaboration between the Rome-based agencies on boosting commodity value chains and access to markets in Mozambique, and work between FAO and the EU to increase small-scale farm production in Pakistan.

Ahmed added: “This work to develop our links with partners simply couldn’t happen without the interest and backing of the member countries. They have supported us all along and in turn our ultimate aim is to build partnerships and alliances that will enable us to deliver on FAO’s mandate for Members.”

## **Fund promotes multidisciplinary work**

A “multidisciplinary fund” promoting collaborative, cross-cutting work will benefit seven FAO projects over the next biennium.

The fund targets projects involving colleagues working together across departments, including between headquarters and decentralized offices, on interdisciplinary areas of FAO’s work.

A total US\$3.1 million was set aside under the programme of work and budget for 2010-11, with the projects selected relating to biosecurity, improved livelihoods and rural development, gender and food security, FAO statistics, climate change, knowledge sharing and capacity development, and policy work on agricultural investments. A further project centred on disaster risk management was also approved, though it will be funded from extra-budgetary resources.

“The fund represents an important tool to help support interdisciplinary work, which is one of FAO’s core functions and a key strength of the Organization. These ways of working are essential if we are to achieve the results expected by our Members,” said Boyd Haight, director, office of strategy, planning and resources management.

The procedure for selecting projects was changed for this biennium to increase transparency, with a peer review panel making recommendations to the Deputy Director-General, Knowledge, who in turn finalized the awards in consultation with the ADGs. The remaining balance in the fund will be used by the interdepartmental strategy teams for team-building activities.