



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**PICTURING  
PROGRESS** | **FOUR BETTERS  
IN FOCUS**





# PICTURING PROGRESS

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## FOUR BETTERS IN FOCUS

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
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Cover photograph: © FAO/George Koranteng

GHANA, 2025. Ramatu Awudu holds a small ruminant after vaccination against peste des petits ruminants (PPR).

She received support through the European Union Response in Northern Ghana project.

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# FOREWORD

This book begins with a seed. Over 80 years ago, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was born from a simple conviction that hunger is not inevitable. Knowledge, collaboration and action can transform everything about our relationship with food: how we cultivate it, how we share it and how we protect the land, water and communities that sustain us all.

Eighty years on, that seed has grown. The journey chronicled in these pages is not only the story of FAO, but of people everywhere who have worked with us to bring about a better world. Farmers who adapt with resilience to changing climates. Fishers who balance tradition with sustainability. Scientists who open doors to new discoveries. Governments who recognize that agrifood systems are the foundation of peace, equity and development.

This commemorative book is a tribute to them. It is a visual testament to how FAO works: in the field, in laboratories, in markets and across ministries. With women in Sahelian cooperatives. With youth in digital innovation hubs. With Indigenous Peoples protecting ancestral knowledge. With countries seeking to improve how they feed and nourish their people.

The photographs gathered here reflect a world in motion. They show how technology and tradition walk side by side. They remind us that the future is not something we wait for. It is something we build together.

This book arrives at a moment of reflection, but also of reckoning. The challenges ahead are vast, but so are the opportunities. Conflicts, climate volatility and economic inequality continue to disrupt lives

and livelihoods. But as these images show, there is reason for hope. Progress is visible. Challenges become opportunities.

In the last five years, FAO has taken bold steps to fulfil its mandate. We have adopted a new Strategic Framework. We have strengthened the support to our Members hand in hand, placing innovation, inclusivity and resilience at the heart of everything we do. We reaffirm our commitment to the four betters: better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind.

We have built new platforms such as the World Food Forum to amplify science and innovation. We have created enabling environments for investment. We have explored the potential of digital tools, One Health approaches and big data, while always grounding these in the experience of those on the front lines of agrifood systems.

Our work has been strengthened by partners – governments, civil society, academia, private sector actors and across the UN system – who share the same belief: that transforming our agrifood systems is possible and urgent. Each of the four betters speaks to that transformative mission.

**Better production** means more than growing more food. It means growing food sustainably, with attention to ecosystems, biodiversity, and the needs of both producers and consumers.

From regenerative agriculture in Asia to climate-smart livestock in Africa, we have helped to scale practices that improve profitability, reduce side effects and increase resilience. Our Blue Transformation initiative is expanding the potential of aquatic food systems. Through equitable access to technical services, inputs and digital innovation, we are reaching more small-scale producers than ever before.

**Better nutrition** calls for making healthy diets accessible and affordable for all. This requires looking beyond food availability to food diversity, food safety and food cultures. We have advanced integrated approaches that link agriculture with nutrition, education and public health. We have promoted school feeding programmes, kitchen gardens and policies that put nutrition at the heart of agrifood systems planning. We have supported transparent food markets and introduced tools to reduce food loss and waste, ensuring that safe, nutritious food reaches every table.

**Better environment** reflects the understanding that agrifood systems are both affected by and drivers of environmental change. Our work on land restoration, sustainable fisheries and water governance has helped communities withstand shocks and regenerate natural resources. We have also worked to preserve genetic diversity and support farmers as custodians of seed and soil. With investments in environmentally friendly products and a growing focus on sustainable urban food systems through the Green Cities Initiative, we are helping shape the cities and landscapes of the future.

## FOREWORD

**Better life** recognizes the broader purpose of our mission: to ensure that agrifood systems enable dignity, opportunity and equity. This means supporting rural livelihoods, empowering women and ensuring that youth have pathways to employment and engagement. It also means protecting the rights and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Through the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and scaled-up investment, we are building more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient and more sustainable agrifood systems that leave no one behind – even in times of crisis, especially in times of crisis.

FAO combines data with dialogue, precision with empathy. We are not only responders in crisis, but enablers of long-term solutions. Not only a source of expertise, but a platform for shared learning.

In 2025, we mark the 80th anniversary of our founding. We also mark 30 years since the adoption of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the renewed global recognition of oceans and aquatic food systems as pillars of resilience and nutrition. These anniversaries remind us that multilateral action is not a relic. It is a requirement.

The road ahead will not be easy. But we are building on 80 years of history. We walk forward on the strength of experience and the courage of those who believe that foods – in all their complexity and meaning – can bring the world together. Let us remember what is at stake: not just crops or calories, but the healthy life and healthy future of billions of people.



© FAO/Giuseppe Carotenuto

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Qu Dongyu. The signature is fluid and cursive, consisting of several stylized characters that represent his name.

Qu Dongyu  
FAO Director-General

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This photo book is a tribute to all those who have supported FAO's work over the past 80 years. Every image in these pages reflects the dedication, passion and hope of countless people working together for a world free from hunger. We are deeply grateful to all, past and present, whose commitment to better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life has shaped and continues to shape

generations of progress. We thank our Members, partners and friends around the world for walking this path with us. A special thank you goes to those who captured in photos moments of resilience, innovation and humanity. This book is for all of you. May it inspire us to continue working together, with renewed energy, for a future where no one is left behind.



## 2023 AFGHANISTAN

Samad Bay, a farmer, sows certified wheat seed provided by FAO on his land in Balkh province. He expects a higher yield than with the local seed he previously cultivated.

© FAO/Hashim Azizi



# INTRODUCTION TO THE FOUR BETTERS

As the world grapples with feeding a growing population while protecting the planet, a clear understanding has emerged: the challenges of hunger, environmental damage and rural poverty are not separate problems requiring separate solutions. They are connected threads in the complex web of global agrifood systems, demanding an integrated response.

**The four betters – better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life** – represent this holistic vision. The past five years have seen FAO strategize activity along these four axes, consolidating its role as a knowledge hub. This framework recognizes that sustainable food security requires transformation across all dimensions at once. When production systems

restore rather than damage natural resources, when nutritious food reaches every table, when farming helps rather than harms the environment, and when food systems create opportunities for people to thrive – this is when real progress becomes possible.

This approach guides collaborative efforts towards ending hunger, recognizing that lasting change emerges from partnerships between those who grow our food, the communities they serve and the institutions that support them. With partners on board, FAO is better equipped than ever to face the future. The path ahead remains challenging, but these connected approaches offer a roadmap for the work still to be done.



# BETTER PRODUCTION



1951  
INDIA

Farmers harvest rice in  
the Terai region.

© FAO



**F**ood production faces growing pressure from limited resources, extreme weather and unstable markets. Yet across diverse landscapes, promising innovations are taking hold. Better farming practices that restore soil health are taking root across Central America. Livestock methods that can adapt to changing weather are being adopted by herders throughout Africa. The Blue Transformation aims to revolutionize how we farm the seas, working to expand protein production in ways that support rather than damage marine ecosystems.

FAO has stepped up its data collection capacity and developed applications that connect smallholders to markets, help manage livestock, and control the

spread of crop-destroying pests. Digital platforms are reaching more small-scale producers than ever before, connecting them to markets, weather information and farming expertise, though coverage remains uneven across regions. The Hand-in-Hand Initiative has established partnerships that transform farming landscapes while respecting local knowledge and ecosystems.

These advances build on solid foundations, yet the path forward presents new opportunities alongside ongoing challenges. While supply chains can still be disrupted – as recent crises have shown – FAO is working to build resilience into these systems. Many producers still need better.

## 2022 PHILIPPINES

A worker sorts frozen fish  
before storage in a cold chain  
facility at the General Santos  
Fish Port Complex.  
© FAO/Veejay Villafranca

## 2024

### UGANDA

Anakitanziya Mwamula, a farmer, tends her rice field.  
The FAO-China-Uganda South-South Cooperation project  
promotes improved Chinese agricultural technologies  
to enhance production, productivity and profitability.

© FAO/Stuart Tibaweswa







## 2024 UGANDA

Simon Wambedde organizes his silkworm-rearing bed and feeds the worms with mulberry leaves. The FAO-China-Uganda South-South Cooperation project aims to scale up and commercialize improved Chinese agricultural technologies to enhance production, productivity and profitability.

© FAO/Stuart Tibaweswa



## 2024 MAURITANIA

Community women sow seed manually as part of the Great Green Wall Initiative.

© FAO/Giulio Napolitano





**2023**  
**KENYA**

A farmer inspects hydroponic crops at the City Shamba orchard at the Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital in Nairobi.

© FAO/Eduardo Soteras

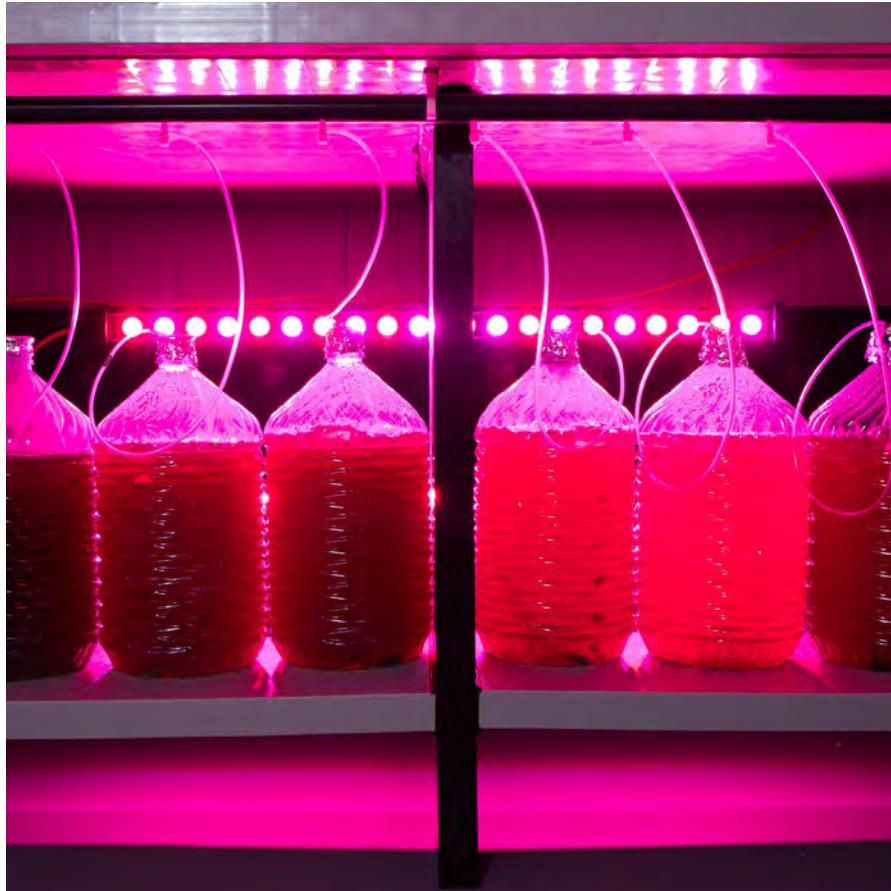


2025

BHUTAN

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu (R)  
visits the incubator for plant tissue culture  
at the National Seed Centre in Paro.

© FAO/Yeshey Tsheltrim



## 2021 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

A laboratory where phytoplankton is cultured to feed rotifers. Emirates Fish Farm produces its own microalgae using artificial lights, supported by FAO's work with the government to strengthen sustainable aquaculture.

© FAO/FameMedia

**2022**  
**THAILAND**

Early in the morning, a fisherman, Boonloi Chaiwisarn, prepares his fish traps to throw into the sea, using a bag of ponyfish attached to the centre of the trap as bait.

© FAO/Jitrapon Kaicome





**2014  
ESWATINI**

In Manzini, a worker adds hot pepper to sauce pots at Eswatini Kitchen – a fair trade producer that buys fruits and vegetables from about 100 small-scale farmers at fair prices.

© FAO/Giulio Napolitano



**2012  
ITALY**

An employee checks bottles of olive oil on the production line in the Industria Olearia Biagio Mataluni factory.

© FAO/Alessia Pierdomenico



**2024**

**SENEGAL**

A representative of the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support project shows herders a map of a transhumance route in Bousra Ndawène. The project, supported by FAO, helps pastoralists access shared resources and services.

© FAO/Sylvain Cherkaoui



**2020**

**KENYA**

Bohari Mlaghui (C) of the Green Rock farming group trains farmers in Taita on farming techniques, mixed diets and market demands. The training is part of FAO's Increasing Smallholder Productivity and Profitability project.

© FAO/Fredrik Lerneryd



**2025**  
**IRAQ**

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu  
inspects wheat crops during a field  
visit to the WaPOR project site  
in Jazhnakan village, Erbil Basin.

© FAO/Ismael Adnan



**2022**  
**SERBIA**

Wheat harvesting at the Institute of  
Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad,  
supported by the FAO Benefit-sharing  
Fund project on small grain genetic resources.

© FAO/Blagoje Grujic

# 2020

## KENYA

Stephen Mburu Gichohi, a commercial chicken farmer and member of an FAO Farmer Field School, collects fresh eggs at his farm in Gatundu, Kiambu County. The school is part of FAO's work to combat antimicrobial resistance through a One Health approach.

© FAO/Fredrik Lerneryd

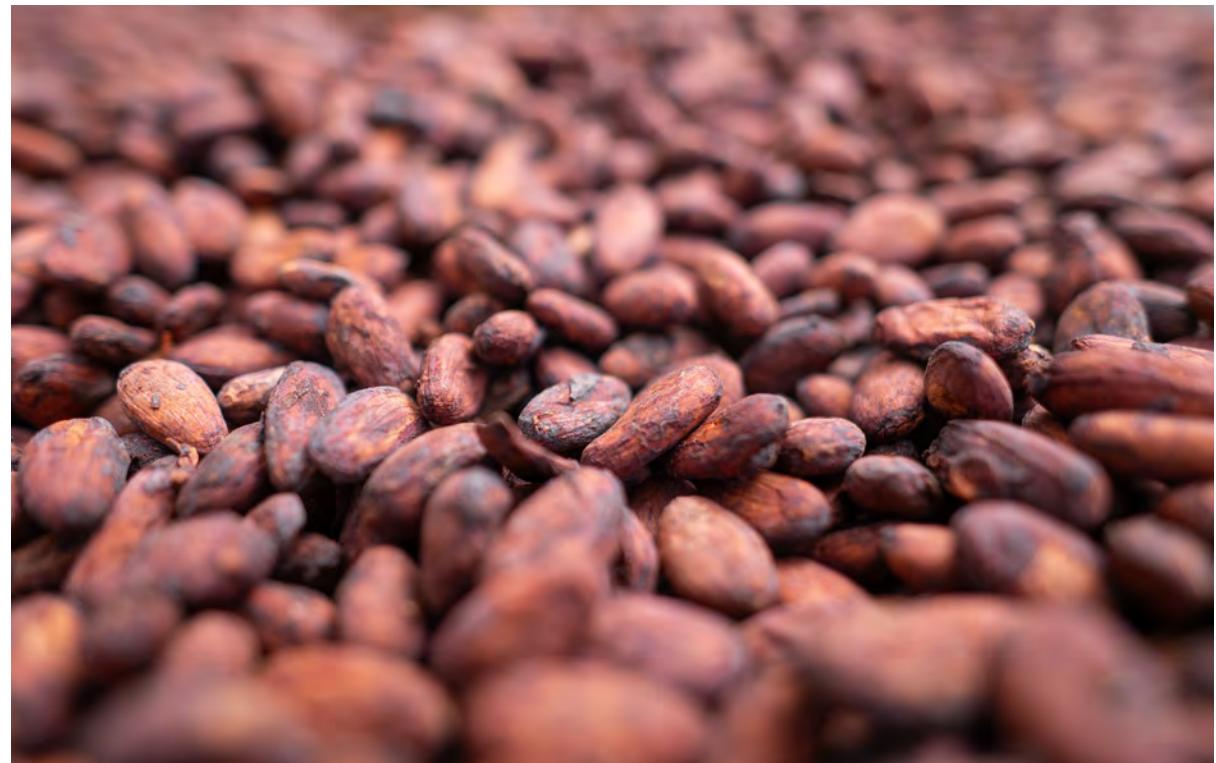




## 2025 COLOMBIA

Dried cocoa beans after fermentation,  
ready for storage or sale in Tumaco. FAO's  
AIM4Commodities project strengthens  
the traceability and sustainability of cocoa.

© FAO/Pilar Valbuena





2010  
TÜRKİYE

A small boat navigates  
between circular  
fish farming cages  
in Samsun.

© FAO

**2017**

**TUNISIA**

Women collect clams in the sea shallows in Sfax.

FAO promotes traceability and stronger seafood

value chains: from the sea to the fork.

© FAO/Amine Landoulsi





**2024**

**KENYA**

Fishers head out to check their traditional fish traps in Lamu.

© FAO/Jahawi Bertolli



## 2025 MAURITANIA

Vatimetou Zayes Elmouslimine, president of the Teydouma Cooperative, works with a colleague. The cooperative specializes in the collection, processing and sale of camel milk, creating employment opportunities for rural women.

© Zied Ben Romdhane/  
Magnum Photos for FAO



## 2022 THAILAND

A worker places polished rice grains back into the solar drying house to eliminate moisture gained during milling, highlighting FAO's work in developing capacity to reduce food loss and waste in Thailand.

© FAO/Alisa Suwanrumpha



**2018**

**GUATEMALA**

A farm worker carries wooden crates

through a maize field in Panajachel.

FAO supports the country's school feeding programme under the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative.

© Pep Bonet/NOOR for FAO



**2024**

**ITALY**

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu checks fruit while visiting the Il Biviere blood orange farm in Lentini during a trip to attend the G7 Ministers' Meeting on Agriculture.

© FAO/Alessandra Benedetti





**2024**  
**AZERBAIJAN**

A farmer feeds sheep on a farm in Beylagan, supported by the FAO project, Development and application of sustainable sheep production.

© FAO/Javid Gurbanov

2022

SPAIN

A worker covers fresh fish  
with ice at Vigo fishing port.  
© FAO/Giulio Napolitano





2019

**KENYA**

A farmer drives a tractor with a ripping and planting machine donated by FAO to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization.

© FAO/Luis Tato

A photograph of a woman, Juliana Sagilai, standing in a banana plantation. She is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved, textured top with brown floral embroidery on the chest and a dark, patterned skirt. A necklace with a small pendant hangs around her neck. She is looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression. The background is filled with large green banana leaves and bunches of green bananas hanging from the trees.

2020

**KENYA**

Juliana Sagilai checks production on her plantation in Taveta. She transports bananas to Mombasa for direct sale or transforms them into flour, illustrating FAO's work in the Increasing Smallholder Productivity and Profitability project.

© FAO/Fredrik Lerneryd



**2021**

**ITALY**

Giorgia Pontetti, founder of Ferrari Farm, holds basil leaves and tomatoes in one of the farm's greenhouses in Petrella Salto. Hydroponic cultivation in sterile and sealed greenhouses irrigated by remote-controlled pumps ensures the absence of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

© FAO/Riccardo De Luca



## 2024 AFGHANISTAN

An FAO staff member provides information about safe farming methods when using market-bought chemicals during a Farmer Field School session in Parwan province.

© FAO/Hashim Azizi



**2015**

**SENEGAL**

A technician from the phytosanitary verification unit at Dakar's international airport inspects melons using a magnifier in cold room storage.

© FAO/Marco Longari



**2024**

**AZERBAIJAN**

Isgandar Shiralizada (L), a beekeeper, trainer and honey producer, works with his uncle on their farm, engaging in daily activities with beehives provided by FAO under the Increasing Youth Employment in Agriculture project.

© FAO/Javid Gurbanov



**1988**

**SENEGAL**

An agricultural extensionist (L) places trays of papaya and banana paste to dry for 4–5 days in a solar oven, before being stored for up to two years, illustrating FAO's work in popularizing small-scale fruit and vegetable preservation techniques.

© FAO/Roberto Faidutti



**2025**

**BHUTAN**

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu (3-L) interacts with farmers and colleagues during a visit to a vertical strawberry farm in Bondey, Paro.

© FAO/Yeshey Tsheltrim

1966

PERU

At the Veterinary Institute  
for Tropical and High  
Altitude Research in  
Huancayo, FAO experts hold  
a range of chicken breeds.

© FAO/S. Larraín





1978

CHINA

A man walks with a flock of geese at Red Star People's Commune, which produces 10 000 geese a month for the Beijing market.

© FAO/Florita Botts



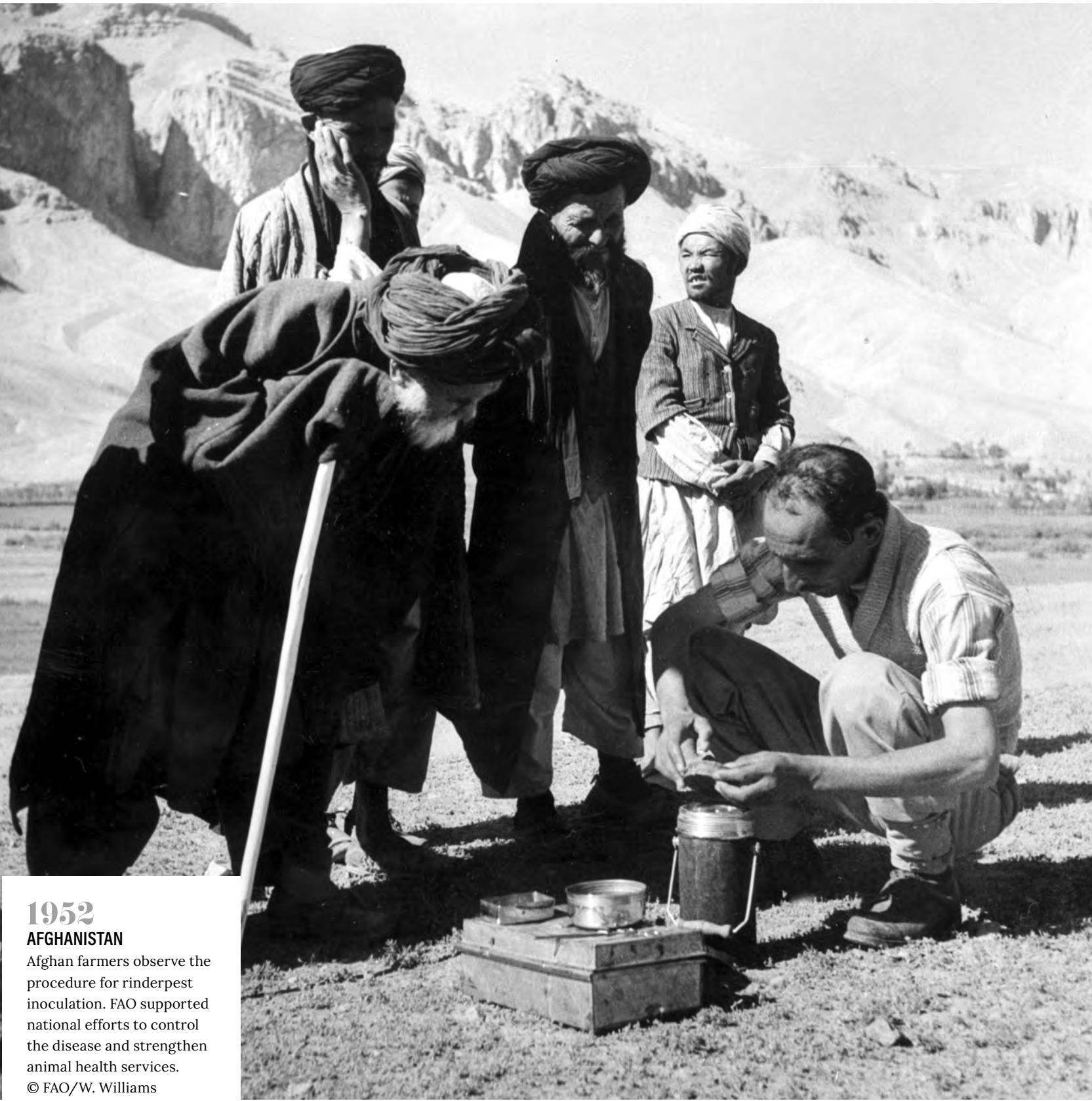


**1964**

**NICARAGUA**

Workers cut banana stems for packing at the Agricola San Pablo banana plantation.

© FAO/Y. Nagata



1952

AFGHANISTAN

Afghan farmers observe the procedure for rinderpest inoculation. FAO supported national efforts to control the disease and strengthen animal health services.

© FAO/W. Williams



# BETTER NUTRITION



**1948**

**GREECE**

Children at a school in Athens cheer as they take breakfast provided by a joint FAO-UNICEF project aimed at improving child nutrition in post-war Greece.

© UN Photo

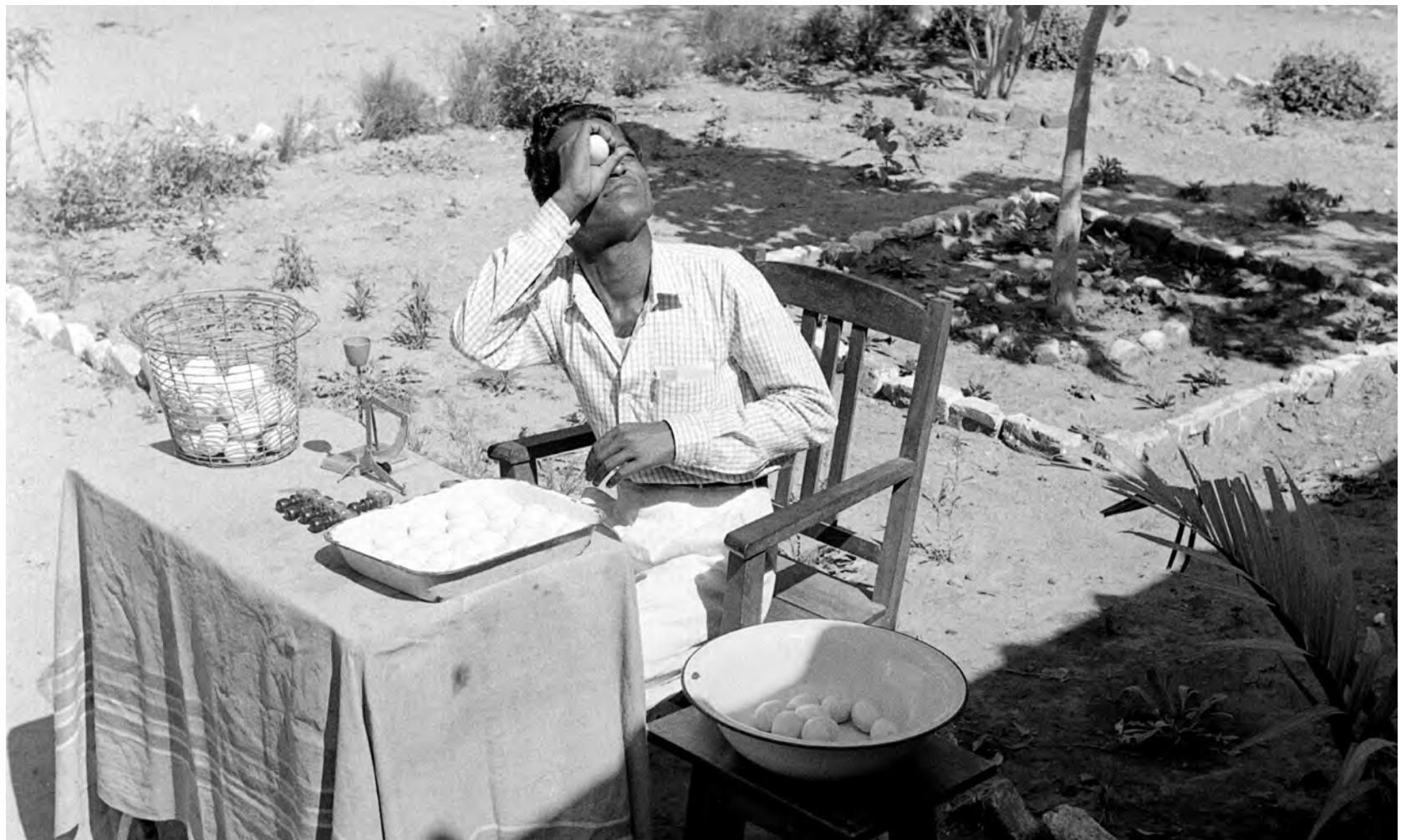


**D**espite producing enough food globally, malnutrition affects nearly every country. The challenge goes far beyond quantity to questions of access, affordability and nutritional quality. Progress has been made in addressing these complex challenges, though significant work remains ahead.

FAO is partnering with countries to produce food systems-based dietary guidelines that will allow them to fight malnutrition in the most locally efficient way. School feeding programmes that nourish children while supporting local farmers show how food systems can be strengthened at multiple levels. Kitchen gardens have helped families across diverse regions grow nutrient-rich foods, reducing dependence on unstable markets. These community-led approaches work because they address nutrition within local food cultures and economic realities.

Traditional food knowledge is being preserved and revitalized in many communities, recognizing the nutritional wisdom embedded in Indigenous Peoples' diets and time-tested food preparation methods. FAO finds that three billion people around the world cannot afford the most basic healthy diet.

Significant challenges remain, but they represent areas where continued support and focused action can yield meaningful progress. While conflict and disasters can reverse nutrition gains, particularly affecting the most vulnerable, FAO is developing more resilient systems and rapid response capabilities. The prevalence of ultraprocessed foods in many food environments creates opportunities to work with governments and communities to reshape food policies and consumer education. The reality that billions of people cannot afford a healthy diet, while daunting, points to specific areas where targeted interventions and sustained support can make the greatest difference.



**1962**  
**INDIA**

A project worker candles an egg in Orissa  
as part of the FAO expanded nutrition project  
supporting expectant and nursing mothers  
and children with balanced diets, while promoting  
village production of fish, eggs and vegetables.

© F.L. Cyprien



**1980**

**CHAD**

Men look on near lines of sun-drying fish.

© FAO/W. Gartung

2025

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, ZANZIBAR

A plate of freshly cut onions – a key ingredient in Tanzanian dishes – adds flavour and aroma to every meal.

© FAO/Gavin Gosbert and Jerry Mushala





**2008**  
**ARMENIA**

A man sells potatoes outside the central market in Yerevan. With food prices rising, FAO supplied vulnerable families with seeds and tools to help them maintain their livelihoods and food security.

© FAO/Johan Spanner

2021

OMAN

A woman from the coastal region hangs

dried fish meat in Al-Seeb.

© FAO/Fahad Al Dhuhli





**2021**

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

A woman lays fresh sprat to sun-dry on a rack, illustrating FAO's FISH4ACP work on developing a value chain analysis of the pelagic sector on Lake Tanganyika.

© FAO/Luis Tato





**1995  
LEBANON**

A technician examines olives under a microscope to determine the presence of parasites.  
© FAO/Roberto Faidutti



**2016  
CHINA**

A woman sells vegetables at a market in Beijing.  
© FAO/Justin Jin



**2019**

**NIGER**

Young restaurant staff prepare Sahelian dishes, usually based on cereals, legumes, meat and sauces, highlighting a regional initiative to strengthen value chains and local food production.

© FAO/Luis Tato



**2015**

**CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

A woman prepares smoked fish in Abidjan. FAO and the Global Environment Facility support coastal fisheries projects in West Africa, helping communities manage resources sustainably.

© FAO/Sia Kambou



## 2024 UGANDA

Women winnow and clean harvested foxtail millet in Butaleja District. The FAO-China-Uganda South-South Cooperation project introduces high-yielding millet varieties to local farmers. Foxtail millet is drought- and disease-resistant, high-yielding and ready to harvest in just 85 days.

© FAO/Stuart Tibaweswa



## 2024 UGANDA

A close-up of a foxtail millet panicle  
in Butaleja District, introduced  
through the FAO-China-Uganda  
South-South Cooperation project.

© FAO/Stuart Tibaweswa



## 2025 CHINA

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu (C) looks at different varieties of coconut at the Coconut Research Institute in Wenchang. Research focuses on tropical oil-bearing crops and palmaceous plants including coconut, oil palm and tea oil camellia.

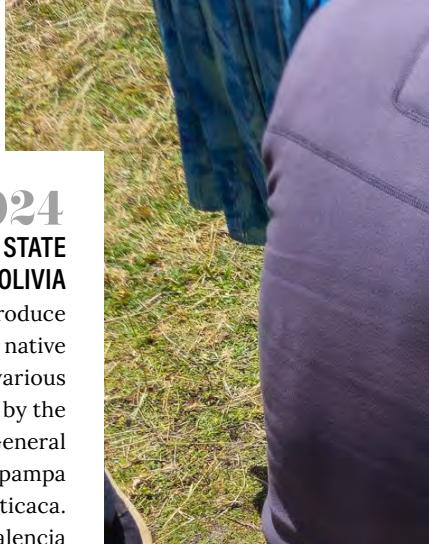
© FAO/Qilai Shen



2019  
NIGER

A man holds local fruits near Tsogal  
village, illustrating FAO's regional  
initiative on sustainable intensification  
of value chain production and  
development in Africa.

© FAO/Luis Tato



## 2024 PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA

Farmers display their produce  
– cooked broad beans, native  
corn, potatoes and various  
tubers – during a visit by the  
FAO Director-General  
Qu Dongyu to the Huatapampa  
community at Lake Titicaca.

© FAO/Max Valencia

## 2023

### AFGHANISTAN

The daughter of an Afghan farmer in Bamiyan province holds fresh potatoes in her hands, illustrating the FAO irrigation project to transform lives in rural Afghanistan.

© FAO/Hashim Azizi





# 2014

ITALY

His Holiness Pope Francis addresses the Second International Conference on Nutrition at FAO headquarters in Rome.

© FAO/Alessandra Benedetti



2018

GUATEMALA

Pupils eat a hot lunch prepared by volunteer mothers using food from family farms in Los Vados, Chiquimula. FAO supports national school feeding programmes under the Hunger-Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative.

© Pep Bonet/NOOR for FAO



**2010**

**BURKINA FASO**

A farmer harvests a rice seed multiplication crop in Banzon, illustrating FAO's support for strengthening food security by re-establishing high-level crop production capacity in rural communities affected by soaring food prices.

© FAO/Giulio Napolitano







**2013**

**GAZA STRIP**

Tending a rooftop vegetable garden in Gaza City under an FAO initiative promoting urban gardening to strengthen household food security.

© FAO/Marco Longari



2019

**NIGER**

Sahelian flours, made from locally grown grains and legumes, are displayed on wooden spoons at Sahel Foods in Zinder.

© FAO/Luis Tato



## 2024 GHANA

Comfort Kwabena-Kan, known as Ma Fonio, holds a bowl of sieved fonio in Chereponi, North East Region.

© FAO/Fanjan Combrink

## 2019 ARMENIA

Women prepare lavash, a traditional bread made with wheat flour and baked on the hot walls of an oven, illustrating FAO's work to strengthen food security and nutrition in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

© FAO/Karen Minasyan







**2024**  
**GHANA**

Women farmers in Chereponi enjoy a groundnut stew with fonio porridge, prepared with help from Chef Fatama Binta.

© FAO/Fanjan Combrink



**2024**

**ITALY**

Chef Binta (3-R) works alongside children during “Dine on a Mat” at FAO headquarters in Rome during the fourth edition of the World Food Forum.

© FAO/Cristiano Minichiello



## 2022 MALDIVES

Hawwa Manik cooks tuna on Gemanafushi Island.  
FAO's Common Oceans programme, a global partnership  
funded by the Global Environment Facility,  
promotes sustainable fisheries and marine biodiversity  
conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction.  
© FAO/Giulio Napolitano



## 2021 KENYA

A young restaurant worker gathers ingredients for Sahelian dishes, usually based on cereals, legumes, meat and sauces, illustrating a regional initiative to strengthen value chains and local food production.

© FAO/Luis Tato



2024

ITALY

Chef Max Mariola (C) and his son Mario cook  
on Junior World Food Day during the fourth edition  
of the World Food Forum at FAO headquarters in Rome.

© FAO/Alessandra Benedetti



2024

ITALY

Children learn about healthy foods during the World Food Forum School Assembly in the Plenary Hall of FAO headquarters.

© FAO/Alessandra Benedetti

**2024**

**GHANA**

A woman prepares fonio grains  
for cooking in Chereponi, North East Region.  
© FAO/Fanjan Combrink





**2019**  
**TAJIKISTAN**

A woman prepares noodles for laghman,  
a traditional soup with chickpeas and  
vegetables, cooked over an open fire.

© FAO/Nozim Kalandarov



**2020**

**KENYA**

Members of the Green Rock farming group prepare foods ahead of a training day in Taita. The group of 14 maintains kitchen gardens for subsistence and farms crops collectively for sale, supported by FAO's Increasing Smallholder Productivity and Profitability project.

© FAO/Fredrik Lerneryd

**2025**

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, ZANZIBAR**

A woman cuts a plantain fruit in Fujoni.

Plantains, a staple in Tanzanian households, provide essential carbohydrates and nutrients, and women play a key role in food preparation and nutrition.

© FAO/Gavin Gosbert and Jerry Mushala



2024

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Riziki Ange in her garden at an internally displaced persons camp in Goma, North Kivu, where FAO provides support to improve access to nutritious foods, farming activities and income.

© FAO/Alessandra Benedetti





2024

ITALY

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu (C) interacts with the Harlem Globetrotters during Junior World Food Day at FAO headquarters in Rome.

© FAO/Alessandra Benedetti



2024

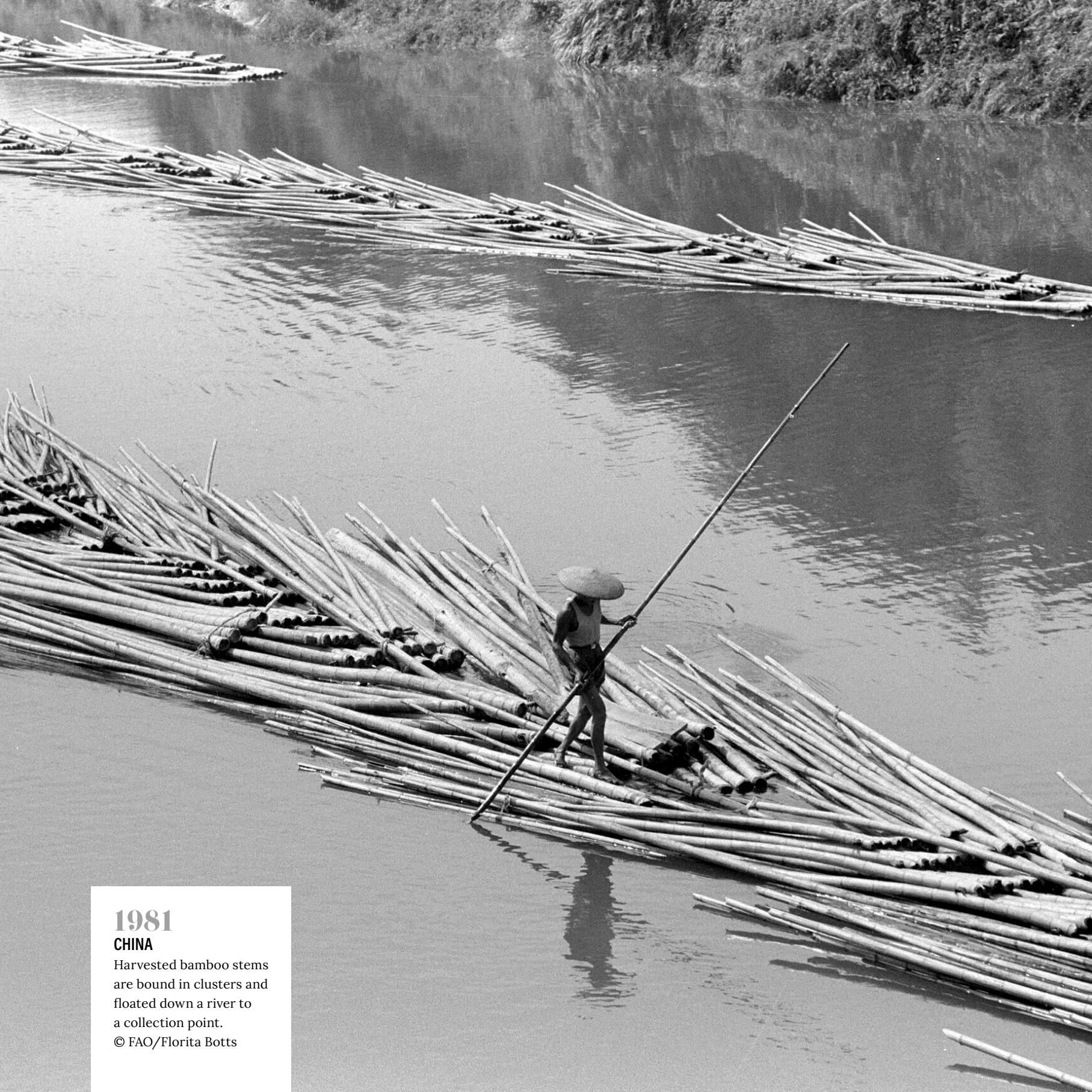
ITALY

The Harlem Globetrotters interact with school children, highlighting the importance of healthy diets and reducing food waste. They championed the right to food on World Food Day 2024 and were designated FAO Global Goodwill Ambassadors in March 2025.

© FAO/Alessandra Benedetti



# BETTER ENVIRONMENT



1981

CHINA

Harvested bamboo stems  
are bound in clusters and  
floated down a river to  
a collection point.

© FAO/Florita Botts



**F**ood systems and environmental health are inseparably linked, creating both urgent challenges and emerging opportunities. While environmental pressures continue to intensify, communities worldwide are demonstrating that feeding people and protecting the planet can advance together.

FAO has championed farmers as custodians of genetic diversity, supported the preservation of indigenous seeds and traditional knowledge and invested in bioeconomy initiatives that turn agricultural waste into valuable resources. Land restoration initiatives are returning degraded areas to productivity while sequestering carbon. Sustainable fisheries management is working to allow depleted stocks to recover in several regions. Indigenous communities are sharing traditional knowledge that offers proven pathways to working with natural systems, with this knowledge increasingly integrated into conservation efforts.

Urban areas have become important centres of food production innovation. FAO debuts the Green Cities Initiative, which supports city governments to integrate urban and peri-urban forestry, agriculture and bioeconomy practices to improve the livelihoods and well-being of urban residents. Nature-based solutions

are being implemented to address multiple challenges simultaneously, from adaptation to biodiversity conservation.

While environmental pressures continue to intensify, FAO recognizes these challenges as catalysts for innovation and transformation. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe, driving the development of more resilient agricultural systems and creating opportunities for communities to build back stronger. Biodiversity loss, while concerning, is spurring new approaches to conservation that integrate food production with ecosystem protection. Water stress affecting billions of people worldwide is accelerating the development of more efficient water management technologies and practices.

The vision of a better environment encompasses food systems that enhance rather than degrade natural systems. FAO is actively working towards this goal by supporting farmers as environmental stewards, scaling nature-based solutions and helping countries integrate environmental considerations into food systems planning. The urgency is clear, the solutions increasingly available and the commitment to transformation stronger than ever.



**1970**

**BURKINA FASO**

Farmers prepare land for planting of sorghum.

© FAO/Giampiero Diana



**1966**

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

An encounter on Mount Kilimanjaro between  
an elephant and trainees from the College of African  
Wildlife Management, which trained park wardens  
and game scouts with support from the UN Special Fund,  
private foundations, governments and FAO experts.

© FAO/Florita Botts



**1974**

**ALGERIA**

Workers plant Aleppo pine seedlings  
in eastern Algeria as part of land  
reforestation and reclamation efforts.

© FAO/Franco Mattioli



**1980**

**NIGER**

A farmer in Keita sows sunflower seeds,  
an off-season crop planted as impoundment waters  
recede during the dry season, illustrating  
FAO's Integrated Development Project.

© R. Carucci



**1970**

**TUNISIA**

A worker uses a fork hoe to loosen soil in a poplar nursery in the Hadjeb-el-Aiouun Reforestation Institute, established with UNDP and FAO support to increase and diversify timber resources while improving forestry management for economic and social development.

© FAO/Florita Botts



1979

LESOTHO

Women carry boxes of pine seedlings to be transplanted as part of a reforestation programme.

© FAO/Jeanette Van Acker

2009

**UGANDA**

Beekeepers harvest grass for hives in Bwindi. After the area was declared a national park in 1991, community enterprises developed grass-woven hives that proved more productive and environmentally friendly.

© FAO/Roberto Faidutti





**1987**

**MYANMAR**

Farmers plant cactus to prevent soil erosion on steep slopes as part of FAO's Pilot Watershed Management Project for Kinda Dam.

© FAO/Giuseppe Bizzarri



## 2020 UGANDA

Karamojong people perform songs  
to share knowledge on weather and animal  
health in a resting area for pastoralists  
and cattle near Mount Moroto.

© FAO/Luis Tato



2018

SENEGAL

Men and women from the community  
work in a tree nursery as part of the  
Great Green Wall Initiative.

© Benedicte Kurzen/NOOR for FAO

# 2010

## BANGLADESH

A boat passes flooded homes where Cyclone Aila destroyed houses, livestock and crops in 2009.

© FAO/Munir Uz Zaman



2024

THAILAND

Swamp buffalo graze in the Thale Noi  
wetland pastoral buffalo agro-ecosystem,  
recognized in 2022 as a Globally Important  
Agricultural Heritage Systems site.

© FAO/Luke Duggleby





2019  
SPAIN

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu  
delivers a statement at  
the Madrid UN Climate Conference.  
© FAO/Eduardo Diéguez San Bernar



2021  
CONGO

Students test villagers' samples  
for COVID-19 as part of FAO's  
Sustainable Wildlife  
Management Programme.

© Brent Stirton/Getty Images for  
FAO, CIRAD, CIFOR, WCS



**2018**

**MONGOLIA**

A herder feeds a young animal. Climate change has made dzud (extreme winter conditions) more frequent and severe, and from 2016 to 2018 FAO implemented four emergency response programmes.

© FAO/K. Purevraqchaa



**2020**

**KENYA**

A goat nibbles at a locust swarm on a tree during FAO's desert locust response campaign in East Africa, launched to counter an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods.

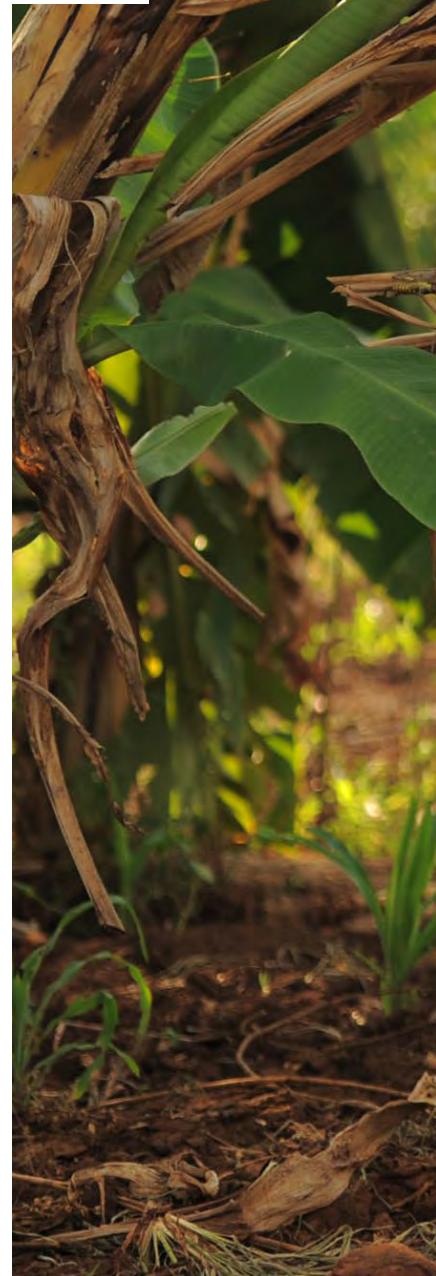
© FAO/Sven Torfinn

2013

UNITED REPUBLIC  
OF TANZANIA

Fatima Salmaan Saleh  
harvests bananas as part of  
an FAO project to help farms  
adapt to climate change  
through improved land and  
water management and  
climate-resilient practices.

© FAO/Daniel Hayduk

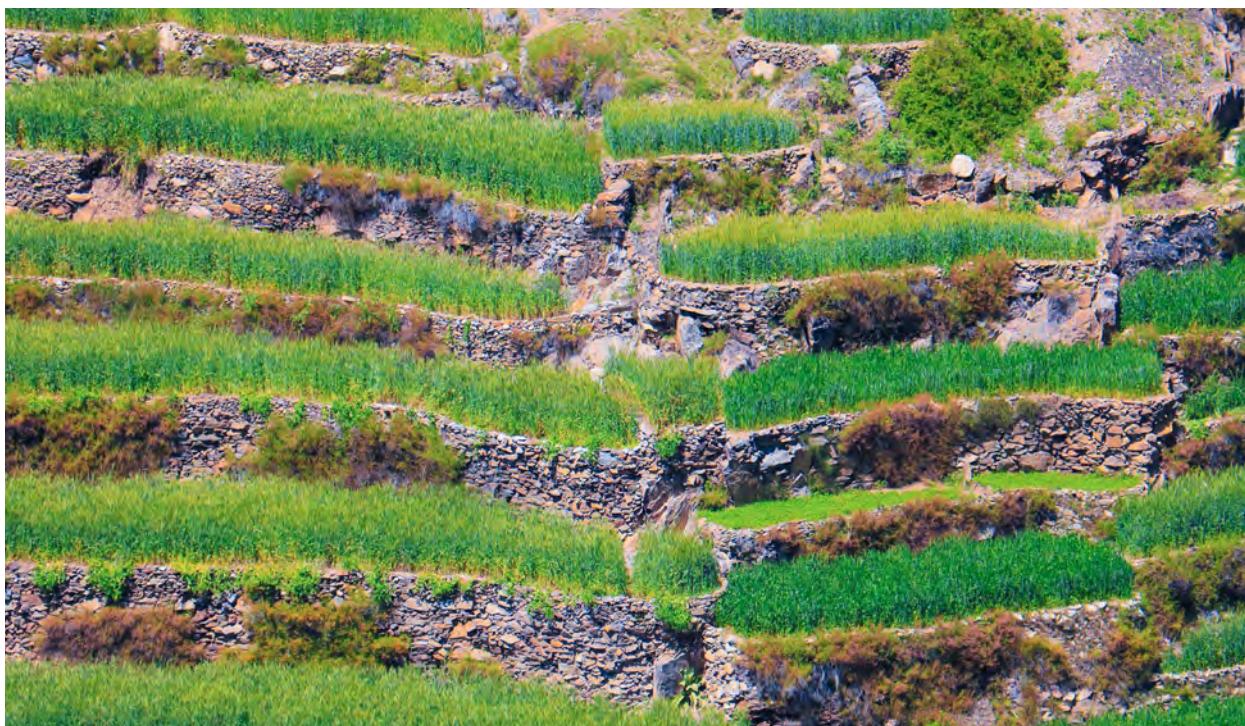


2024

AFGHANISTAN

Wheat fields in Laghman Province,  
where FAO supports afforestation,  
reforestation and rangeland  
management to restore degraded land.

© FAO/Sahil





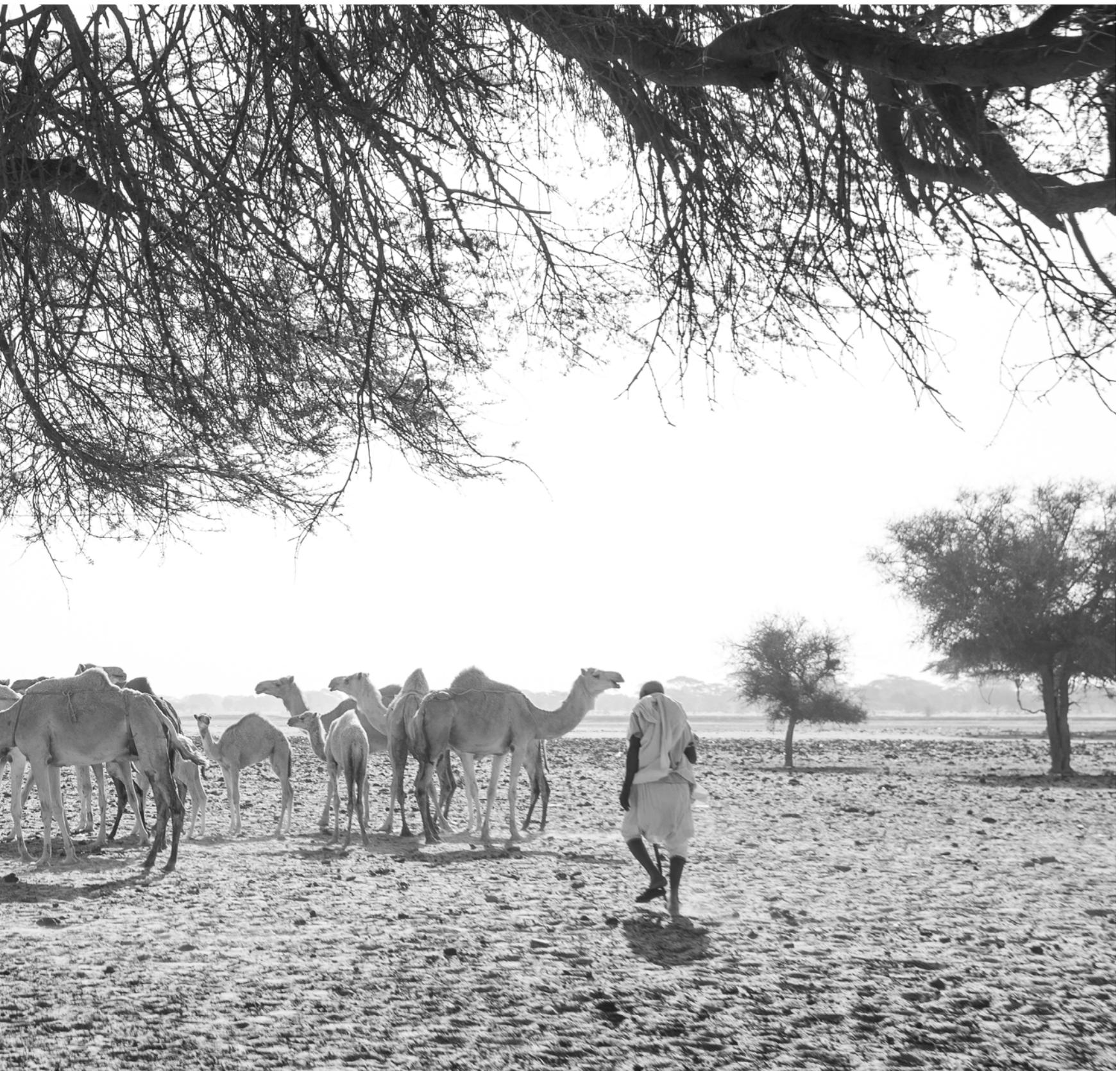
2025

**MAURITANIA**

A nomadic herder walks with a dromedary camel herd. Camelids are vital for food security and livelihoods in arid regions.

© Zied Ben Romdhane/  
Magnum Photos for FAO







**2024**

**INDONESIA**

The Salak Agroforestry System in Karangasem was recognized as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System in 2024.

Developed by Indigenous Peoples, it enhances biodiversity, conserves water, sequesters carbon and supports food security, while preserving cultural heritage and supporting livelihoods.

© FAO/Harriansyah

**2024**

**BRAZIL**

Representatives of countries and international organizations at the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro reaffirm their commitment to the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty.

© FAO/Max Valencia





## 2020 KENYA

An aircraft sprays pesticides during FAO's locust control campaign. Faced with massive swarms, aerial operations were the only effective way to reduce locust numbers across East Africa.

© FAO/Sven Torfinn



**2024**  
**THAILAND**

Herons at Thale Noi, where the wetland pastoral  
buffalo agro-ecosystem was recognized in 2022  
as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System.

© FAO/Luke Duggleby



**2019**

**NIGER**

A local species of chameleon  
in the Zinder Region.

© FAO/Luis Tato



**2013**

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

A farmer, Judas Paskali, waters his crops with canal water in Kiroka, illustrating an FAO project that helps farms adapt to climate change by improving land and water management and promoting climate-resilient practices.

© FAO/Daniel Hayduk

# 2024

## MAURITANIA

A sand stabilization site – part of the Great Green Wall Initiative, which puts communities at the centre of restoration and reforestation, providing expert knowledge and training to select which tree and grass species to grow, where to plant seeds for optimal results and how to harvest products or their seeds for future use.

© FAO/Luca Muzi



2022

BANGLADESH

Ducks forage in floodwaters during the monsoon season, when duck farming provides an important source of livelihood for farmers.

© FAO/Saikat Mojumder







**2005**

**INDIA**

A fisherman stands on his damaged boat after a tsunami on the southeastern coast.

© FAO/Ami Vitale

**2023**

**THAILAND**

A school of gold-band fusilier swims over large colonies of gorgonian sea fans in the shallow reefs of the Adang-Rawi archipelago.

© FAO/Sirachai Arunrugstichai





## 2025

**SPAIN**

Vine pit landscapes in La Geria, Lanzarote, where  
semicircular stone walls protect vines in volcanic soil.  
This traditional system sustains biodiversity, livelihoods,  
and cultural heritage in one of Europe's driest regions.

© FAO/Lis Sánchez



2003

**BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA**

Two men tend an urban garden as part of FAO's urban and peri-urban agriculture project under the Special Programme for Food Security.

© FAO/Giuseppe Bizzarri

## 2019 ETHIOPIA

Banana hands in storage  
in Addis Ababa.

© FAO/Eduardo Soteras



## 2017 NEPAL

A farmer tends to her crops,  
illustrating an FAO-supported  
project where some  
3000 farmers learned how  
to grow crops better adapted to  
the impacts of climate change.

© Chris Steele-Perkins/  
Magnum Photos for FAO





**2023**

**BANGLADESH**

Fish culture in offshore floating cages, illustrating FAO's support to community-based climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture development.

© FAO/Saikat Mojumder



**2013**

**NIGER**

Small dams and barriers dug into the earth to prevent soil degradation and to keep rainwater on site, illustrating the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative supported by FAO.

© FAO/Giulio Napolitano



**2020  
GUYANA**

Leon Baird bow-fishes in a creek  
on the Rupununi River. Through the  
Sustainable Wildlife Management  
Programme, Indigenous Peoples  
support food security and  
traditional livelihoods while  
helping conserve biodiversity.

© Brent Stirton/Getty Images for FAO,  
CIRAD, CIFOR, WCS

**2015**

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

Farmers harvest high grass for hay in the Kagera River basin. The FAO Transboundary Agro-ecosystem Management Project promotes hay-making to prevent land degradation and allow soil to regenerate.

© FAO/Marco Longari







## 2016 UGANDA

A farmer, Gorreti Asiimwe, works inside her mushroom farm during an FAO visit to identify climate challenges and adaptation options for climate-resilient farming.  
© FAO



2019  
NIGER

A woman plants seeds as part of a Sahelian plants grow-out testing and reforestation project.

© FAO/Luis Tato



BETTER LIFE



**1969  
AFGHANISTAN**

Students work with FAO karakul sheep expert Usman Valiev from the former Soviet Union. He photographs a karakul lamb as part of a breeding selection process.

© FAO/Florita Botts



**F**ood systems should serve human dignity and opportunity, yet too often they perpetuate inequality and marginalization. Recognizing this challenge, significant efforts have been made to ensure food systems become engines of social progress.

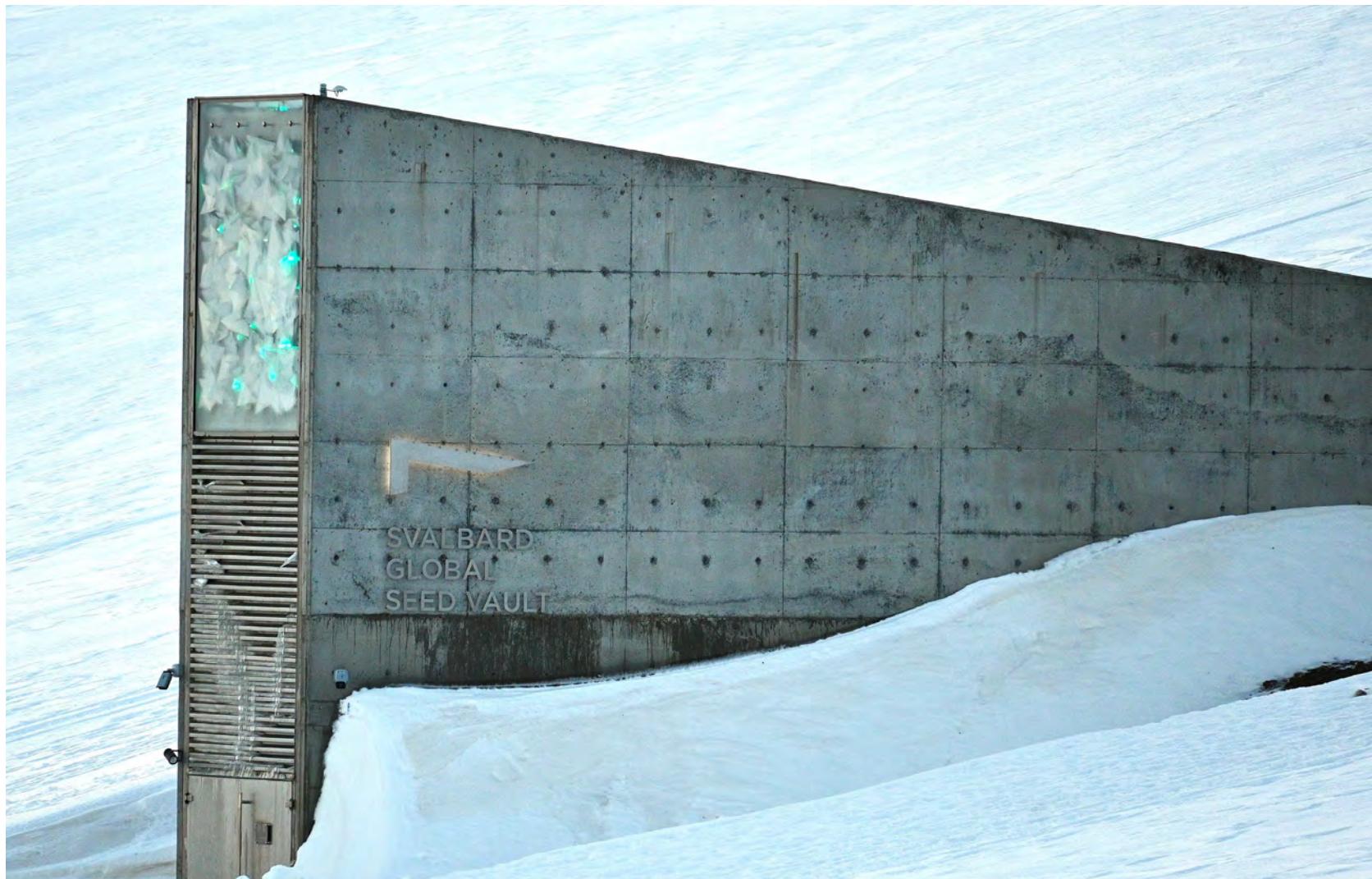
FAO has prioritized women's economic participation, understanding that gender balance in agriculture multiplies positive outcomes across entire communities. Youth engagement initiatives have created pathways for young people to remain in rural areas as leaders and innovators. The protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights and knowledge systems has become central to FAO's mission, recognizing these communities as essential partners in sustainable development.

The Hand-in-Hand Initiative exemplifies this integrated approach to rural transformation, bringing together governments, development partners and communities to build more inclusive agrifood systems. Even during crises – from conflicts to pandemics – this framework has demonstrated that resilient food systems are those that prioritize fairness and social cohesion alongside productivity and efficiency. Social protection systems have been strengthened in many

regions to provide security during economic shocks. Value chains are being restructured to ensure that small-scale producers receive fairer prices while workers enjoy better conditions.

Important areas for continued focus remain, offering pathways for sustained progress. While rural poverty rates are still high in many regions, these communities represent priority areas where targeted support can yield transformative results. Limited access to education, healthcare and infrastructure in rural areas highlights specific investment opportunities that can strengthen entire food systems. Power imbalances in food value chains, while challenging, point to clear areas where policy reforms and partnership approaches can create more equitable outcomes for those who work to feed the world.

The vision for a better life encompasses food systems that create opportunities for human flourishing – rural areas where young people see viable futures, where women have equal participation, where Indigenous Peoples' knowledge is valued, and where all people can build dignified livelihoods. Realizing this vision requires addressing structural inequalities, investing in rural development and ensuring that those who feed the world can feed themselves.



**2025**

**NORWAY**

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault during the blue hour. As of 2025, the vault had received nearly 14 000 seed deposits, including over 2 000 samples from projects in Georgia, Malawi and Zimbabwe supported by the Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

© FAO/Cindy Côté-Andreeett



**2023**

**ITALY**

The Forty-third Session  
of the FAO Conference in the  
Plenary Hall of FAO headquarters.  
© FAO/Giuseppe Carotenuto



## 2023 TÜRKİYE

Fikriye Şeyma Uçar repairs fishing nets with other women workers at Arsuz port, an area recovering from the severe earthquakes of 6 February 2023. The FAO project, Leaving No One Behind, promotes greater involvement and empowerment of rural women in Türkiye and Central Asia.

© FAO/Bradley Secker



**2021**

**MALTA**

A view of bluefin tuna, a species commonly farmed in pens in the Mediterranean Sea.

© FAO/Kurt Arrigo

2024  
AZERBAIJAN

A woman and two relatives  
examine wheat heads in a field  
as part of an FAO project on

© FAO/Javid Gurbanov



2025  
ITALY

A totem installed along the itinerary of Sustainable Pompeii, an FAO project in collaboration with the Archaeological Park of Pompeii, which connects the heritage site with the global effort to advance the SDGs.  
© FAO/Giuseppe Carotenuto





**2024**

**ITALY**

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu (L) and Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to FAO and WFP, stoke the fire during the inauguration of the Indigenous Peoples' tent at the fourth edition of the World Food Forum.

© FAO/Pier Paolo Cito



**2017**

**KENYA**

Farmers, Miriam Mbuki Koigu (L) and her son Joel Koigu (R), practise conservation agriculture within FAO's Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization for Africa framework.

© FAO/Luis Tato



## 2025 MAURITANIA

Dromedary camels and herders at the world's second largest camel market, 10 km from the centre of Nouakchott. In a country where the dromedary is central to daily life, the market gathers hundreds of camels divided into herds by traders.

© Zied Ben Romdhane/Magnum Photos for FAO



2018

GUATEMALA

Mothers prepare school meals using farm produce.

FAO focuses on strengthening school feeding programmes by linking them to nutrition education, local agriculture and social protection.

© Pep Bonet/NOOR for FAO





2020

KENYA

A member of FAO's ground team inspects and traps locusts after an aerial spraying to combat a locust upsurge.

© FAO/Sven Torfinn

2024

MAURITANIA

A seeding drone is operated with FAO staff members, illustrating the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative.

© FAO/Giulio Napolitano



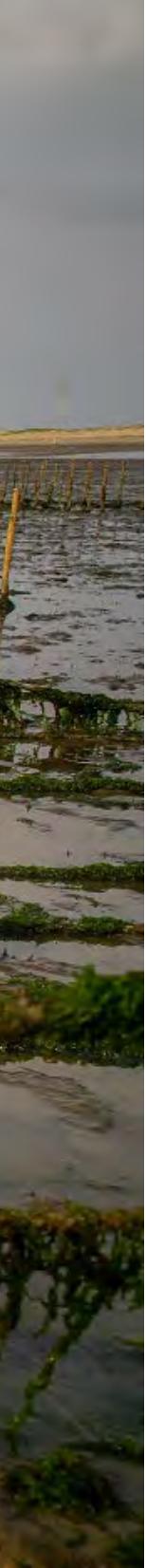


2022

BANGLADESH

A woman works in a seaweed farm.

© FAO/GMB Akash



2024

KAZAKHSTAN

A historian and ethnographer  
smiles as she holds onto  
a camel just returned from  
herding freely in the area.

© FAO/Mattia Romano





**2022**

**BANGLADESH**

Members of a women-led community-based organization sit in a circle and hold hands as they take an oath to work together. The group was formed under the golda-rice-fish culture project, an FAO-supported climate-resilient initiative. © FAO/Masudur Rahaman

## 2023 AFGHANISTAN

A farmer, Qasim Ali, expresses his satisfaction with an FAO irrigation project that enabled him to have access to sufficient water for agriculture.

© FAO/Hashim Aziz



## 2017

### ZIMBABWE

Fikile Khumalo, daughter of a local farmer and honey producer, holds a bowl filled with unprocessed honey in her village.

© FAO/Zinyange Auntony





**2021**  
**CAMBODIA**

A boy pushes his bicycle as he plays in a rice field.

© FAO/Tang Chhin Sothy





2015  
BRAZIL

A local farmer stands in a grassy field holding a large bundle of wild flowers. Local farmers, also known as Sempre-vivas flower gatherers, combine flower gathering, agroforestry gardening, livestock grazing and crop cultivation at various altitudes of up to 1400 metres. The complex system is based on a wide range of traditional knowledge and adopts practices passed on from generation to generation, helping people achieve harmony with the environment while ensuring their food and livelihood security.

© FAO/Joao Roberto

**2024**

**SUDAN**

Al Rida Ajban, a farmer from Gedaref, displays his millet crop, a symbol of resilience and hope after a challenging season.

© FAO/Mahmoud Shamrouk





**2024**  
**CHINA**

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu (C) visits

the nursery of an international flower company.

© FAO/Dan Sandoval



## 2023 NIGERIA

A young worker in a fish processing plant. FISH4ACP supports efforts to boost the catfish sector for its potential to create jobs and business opportunities, in particular for women and youth. It aims to improve access to key export markets, enhance productivity and increase competitiveness.

© FAO/Giulio Napolitano



**2019**

**ITALY**

Recipients of the joint FAO-Slow Food project watch farmer, Daniela Saglietti, demonstrate how Robiola di Roccaverano cheese is made during a visit to the Amaltea farm.  
© FAO/Alessandra Benedetti



**2024**

**UGANDA**

Wenjing Long, a Chinese expert on the development of new crop varieties, works at a sorghum plantation in the China-Uganda Agricultural Cooperation Industrial Park.  
© FAO/Stuart Tibaweswa

# 2022

## UGANDA

Labong Christine and Akello Night work in a passion fruit field. The FAO-supported preparation for the Global Refugee Forum included training for refugees and host communities in agricultural entrepreneurship, sustainable farming techniques and preservation of high-nutrient foods to improve their food, nutrition and income security.

© FAO/Vincent Tremeau



2019

**NIGER**

A man sells fruits and vegetables at Tanout market, one of the largest in the Sahel and a hub of cultural exchange and economic activity for both nomadic and sedentary communities.

© FAO/Luis Tato







**2013  
WEST BANK**

A Palestinian woman, supported by an FAO project to address household food insecurity, tends the plants in her garden.  
© FAO/Marco Longari



**2021  
ITALY**

Different varieties of tea leaves  
– white, black, green, oolong and  
scented – displayed in a tearoom  
on World Tea Day.  
© FAO/Pier Paolo Cito



**2024**  
**GHANA**

A farmer in Cheriponi, Christabel Kwasi, inspects fonio plants in a field.

© FAO/Fanjan Combrink



2015  
SERBIA

A technician at a centre for food analysis works on bacteria samples in a laboratory, illustrating FAO's emergency assistance to flood-affected small-scale farmers.

© FAO/Oliver Bunic



## 2021 KENYA

Two Maasai women from the Namaiyana Cultural Group repair the roof of a traditional homestead in Mukogodo Forest. The group also runs a shop and tourist area showcasing Maasai culture, supported by FAO-secured funding from the Global Environment Facility for restoration of arid and semi-arid lands through bio-enterprise development.

© FAO/Luis Tato



**2017**

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

A woman stands smiling in a yard with goats in the background, illustrating FAO's emergency support to crop and livestock production.

© FAO/Louai Beshara





2013

VIET NAM

A farmer herds cattle through a rice field.  
The country has seen an 80 percent reduction  
in hunger since 1990.  
© FAO/Hoang Dinh Nam

2022  
UGANDA

Rachel Atugonza, a Farmer Field  
School facilitator, talks with Betty  
Acayo Ocira in a kale field.  
An FAO project trained refugees and  
host communities in agricultural  
entrepreneurship, sustainable farming  
and food preservation to improve  
nutrition and income security.  
© FAO/Vincent Tremeau





## 1945 CANADA

A plenary session of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Conference in Quebec. Representatives of nearly 40 nations met in Quebec and formed the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), designed to ensure adequate food supplies all over the world.

© The National Film Board



# PICTURING PROGRESS

FOUR BETTERS  
IN FOCUS

The logo for the FAO 80th anniversary. It features the letters 'FAO' in a stylized font where the 'O' is replaced by a circular emblem. This emblem contains a variety of colored segments representing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and a golden wheat stalk is positioned to the right of the circle.

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