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SUPPORT FOR AGRI-FOOD SECTOR IN THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA TO ENGAGE IN THE UNFCCC COP27

May 2024

SDGs:



Countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Project Code: TCP/RAB/3806

FAO Contribution: USD 350 000

Duration: 1 March 2022–31 December 2023

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Implementing Partners

Ministries of Agriculture and Environment in the targeted countries.

Beneficiaries

Government ministries in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region related to agriculture, water, livestock, forestry, fisheries and the environment; and agrifood stakeholders in the targeted countries.

Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

Algeria (2019–2022), Priorité gouvernementale 3: Durabilité des ressources naturelles et des zones fragiles utilisées à la lumière du changement climatique.

Produit 3.6 : La conservation de la biodiversité et des espaces naturels est améliorée.

Cible 3.6.2: D'ici 2021, 1 étude de vulnérabilités aux changements climatiques pour la bonne gouvernance des espaces naturels réalisée.

Egypt (2018–2022), Government priority 3: Sustainable use of natural resources.

Output 3.2: Strategies and plans for increased water supply, including the water-energy-food nexus, multi-sectoral use of Nile River water, alternative freshwater sources, water harvesting and use of treated wastewater, developed.

Target 3.2.2: At least one National Adaptation Plan (NAP) including agriculture adaptation considerations, developed by 2020.

Iraq (2018–2022), Government Priority 3: Increased, sustainable smallholder agricultural productivity for higher food security and nutrition.

Output 3.3: Agricultural education institutions upgraded to promote climate-smart agriculture (CSA).

Target 3.3.1: By 2020, CSA is incorporated in the curricula of public agricultural colleges and institutes.

Jordan (2017–2021), Government Priority 1: Disaster preparedness and response in the agricultural sector.

Output 1.1: National DRR policies and strategies, including climate adaptation plans, for the agriculture sector further developed.

Target 1.1.1: At least one strategy for DRR in agriculture updated/developed by 2020.

Government Priority 3: Resilience of rural and peri-urban livelihoods.

Output 3.4: Strengthened capacities for increased use and local commercialisation of renewable energy sources in agriculture by rural communities and co-operatives.

Target 3.4.1: At least 40 small farmers trained on solar energy use in agriculture by 2019.

Lebanon (2016–2019), Government priority 2: Improve performance of the agriculture sector contributing to the economic, social, environmental and sustainable rural development of Lebanon.

Output 2.3: Capacities of MOA and other concerned institutions developed with the assistance of FAO in data and policy support (including strengthening of social protection systems and expansion to rural areas) with special focus on gender to foster sustainable rural development.

Mauritania (2017–2021), Priorité de Gouvernement 3: Gestion durable des ressources naturelles face au changement climatique pour une économie durable et résiliente.

Produit 3.4: Les capacités de résilience des communautés moyens d'existence face aux crises et chocs climatiques.

Cible 3.4.1: 4 000 ménages dotés de moyens à travers le cash plus.

Morocco (2017–2020), Domaine Prioritaire 2: La gestion durable, inclusive et intégrée des ressources naturelles et des espaces fragiles face au changement climatique.

Produit 2.7: Les capacités des institutions nationales sont renforcées pour l'application de l'Accord de Paris et la mise en œuvre de NDC.

Oman (2018–2022), Government priority 2: Environmental Sustainability and Resilience to Climate Change of the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector.

Output 2.2: Government capacities to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies into agricultural and fisheries policies strengthened.

Target 2.2.1: At least two government entities receive support to streamline DRRM/climate change adaptation into agriculture, fisheries, and rural development into strategies and plans by 2021.

Sudan (2017–2020), Government priority 3: Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Building.

Output 3.1: Enhanced Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change mitigation and adaptation initiatives focusing on livelihoods and food security.

Target 3.1.1: At least one Early Warning-Early Action (EWEA) system established and functional by 2020.

Target 3.1.2: At least 2 000 persons trained on DRM and Climate Change mitigation and adaptation by 2020.

Tunisia (2016–2020), Priorité gouvernementale n°3: Le développement des ressources naturelles, leur pérennisation et l'atténuation des impacts des changements climatiques.

Produit 3.1: Des systèmes développés d'inventaires pour une gestion intégrée efficace et durable des ressources naturelles, aux forêts et parcours.

Target 3.1.3: D'ici 2020, au moins 2 initiatives sur l'adaptation de l'agriculture aux CC (CSA) développées avec l'appui de la FAO.

BACKGROUND

The Near East and North Africa (NENA) region is significantly impacted by climate change, with the effects expected to worsen as temperatures increase. Coupled with rising sea levels and unpredictable rainfall patterns, these higher temperatures will have severe effects on agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forests, which are already stressed by land, soil and water-resource degradation.

Countries in the region have successfully shifted policies and practices to promote mitigation and adaptation to climate change in agrifood sectors; however, more changes are required to ensure the best defence against the drought and water scarcity that are likely to be exacerbated in the medium to long term.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) presents a global forum to directly address climate change and for countries to commit to cutting emissions through their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as well as to promote the implementation of climate-resilient practices.

With Egypt as the host of COP27, the NENA region had the opportunity to scale up its priorities for climate-resilient agrifood sectors among member states, which include the promotion of climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices to address water scarcity, heat and drought; the prevention of food loss and waste; and the preservation of soil and water resources.

This Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project was designed to support Egypt throughout its COP Presidency, and to support other member states in the region to enhance their capacity to participate in COP and negotiate on climate change-related goals and processes. The project employed an agrifood systems approach to addressing the impacts of climate change, taking into consideration the economic barriers to the adoption of CSA practices and the promotion of private sector engagement.

IMPACT

By enhancing the focus on climate change-related priorities in the agriculture and food sectors at national and regional levels, the project results are expected to contribute to the transformation of agrifood sectors in the targeted countries to adapt to and mitigate the harmful effects of climate change through strengthened regional support for climate action.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

The project contributed to the achievement of the SDGs by working with a variety of cross-cutting teams that emphasize: (i) nutrition and food security (SDG 2); (ii) gender-responsive climate action (SDG 5); (iii) water and adaptation (SDG 6); (iv) sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12); (v) climate action, climate policy and disaster risk reduction (SDG 13); and (vi) ecosystem restoration and management, and forests and adaptation (SDG 15).

By both driving and taking advantage of the momentum of COP27 and COP28 in the region (COP28 was held in the United Arab Emirates), the project conducted assessments and engaged with country representatives, especially those from the agriculture sectors. This resulted in the empowerment of actors working within agrifood systems to engage in both national- and global-level climate change processes, including those of the UNFCCC. In addition to these achievements, the project exceeded its target of 13 NENA countries having submitted updated NDCs, with a total of 14 having submitted Contributions that include adaptation and/or mitigation priorities in agrifood systems by the end of the project.

Under Output 1, support was provided to the Government of Egypt in its role as the host of COP27, with specific emphasis on a series of high-level events comprising: (i) a regional consultation on agriculture and food security, which ultimately led to the creation and launch of the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership; (ii) the first stakeholder consultation of Egypt's COP27 Presidency of the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN); (iii) the provision of inputs to the Action on Water Adaptation or Resilience (AWARE) and the organization of a partner meeting on the AWARE initiative at Cairo Water Week; (iv) technical and financial support to the Egypt Smart Green Initiative; (v) the development of the "Towards Climate-Smart Agriculture in Egypt" report, the creation of an advocacy video, and the organization of side events to promote the findings of the report; and (vi) the hosting of several side events at the United Nations (UN) Egypt Pavilion at COP27.

The focus of Output 2 was the creation of inputs for meetings and negotiations at pre COP27 events and at the Conference itself. These included the publication and launch of the "Towards Climate-Smart Agriculture in Egypt" report, an information note entitled "Loss and Damage in Rural Livelihoods and Agrifood Systems in the NENA Region: Key Learnings", and an information note on gender and climate in the NENA region.

The focus of Output 3 was the capacity development of regional agriculture representatives. This work aimed to enable their effective participation in COP27, COP28, and in other regional climate change initiatives and processes. A virtual roundtable on Loss and Damage in Rural Livelihoods and Agrifood Systems in the NENA Region was organized; four side events on NDCs and food security, water scarcity; conflict and water, and the “blue transformation” of fisheries and aquaculture were organized at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Climate Week in Dubai in April 2022; and participation was facilitated in events at the second edition of MENA Climate Week in Riyadh in October 2023, as well as side events at the Water & Climate Pavilion at COP27 and the Food and Agriculture Pavilion during COP27 and COP28.

The activities carried out under Output 4 aimed to facilitate the development of awareness-raising materials on regional climate priorities. Indeed, a variety of articles, web stories and tweets were published, and even covered internationally.

Fewer than expected requests were made for information notes; however, this allowed for the project implementation team to respond to member-country requests for capacity-building activities and support for participation in events. It also meant that FAO could respond to the call for the development of an agrifood systems initiative, which led to the establishment of the FAST Partnership, a funded multistakeholder mechanism for climate finance (<https://www.fao.org/climate-change/action-areas/access-to-climate-finance/fast/en>).



IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

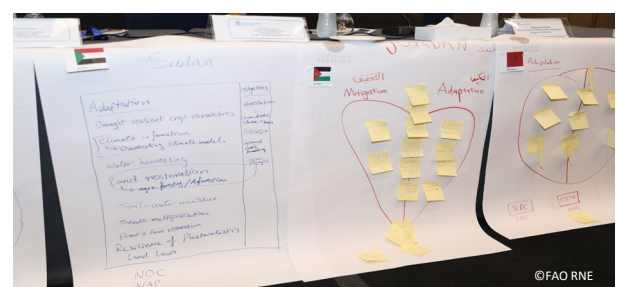
This TCP was initiated to ensure access to funds to support the necessary preparations for COP27; however, the project needed to stay flexible to accommodate requests from the COP27 Presidency, which emerged as opportunities to amplify the importance of agrifood sectors in both the preparation of Egypt’s Presidency programme, and in the negotiations held at the Conference.

At the time of the design of the TCP (November to December 2021), the scope of the Presidency programme and negotiations had not been announced. Based on the experience of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) on a previous regional TCP designed to support the COP25 Presidency of the Government of Chile, as well as members of the COP core delegation from FAO’s Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, this regional TCP was designed with the main elements of expected support taken into account: capacity building; the provision of technical support to respond to requests; the development of information and knowledge outputs to support various stakeholders to enhance and advocate for regional agrifood systems priorities at COP and during national processes; support to the Government of Egypt, including for convening and participation of agriculture representatives; and communications. The built-in flexibility allowed for quick responses to the Egyptian Presidency’s invitation for agencies to submit proposals for Presidency Initiatives and led to the establishment of the FAST initiative; FAO’s active role in I-CAN; and FAO’s roles in the AWARE and the Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace (CRSP) initiatives.

No procurement or travel delays occurred. The milestones of the project – i.e. the various mandated events (COP27, COP28) – were known in advance. However, due to organizational issues at the global level, there were changes and uncertainties over the dates of the Climate Weeks in 2022 and 2023. This shortened the timeframe for planning and affected the participation of some countries. In both cases, FAO managed to organize a number of events and contributed dozens of interventions, including the facilitation of core programme sessions and events (see more at <https://enb.iisd.org/middle-east-north-africa-mena-climate-week-2023-11oct23>).

The project workplan and budget were actively managed on a regular basis by the lead technical officer, and the budget holder was apprised on implementation status regularly.

No significant environmental and social risks were envisaged or encountered, and no unforeseen risks were encountered either.



FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

Governments in the region should seize the momentum of the two COPs to accelerate capacity building and coordination within their national contexts. The opportunity is particularly salient for the upcoming update of their NDCs. Given that two FAO Regional Conferences for the Near East (NERCs) took place with a focus on COP27 and COP28, the NERC also recommended that countries invest in actions to boost agricultural and food systems priorities in national climate change policies.

SUSTAINABILITY

1. Capacity development

Participating countries enhanced their national policy environments and frameworks for climate change action. This project directly contributed to the following initiatives and milestones by supporting facilitation, organization or country participation:

- Egypt's Nexus of Water, Food and Energy (NWFE) Program, which was launched during COP27 and aims to build on the outcomes of the Conference for the agricultural sectors in the country.
- Throughout the implementation this project, climate finance projects and support were initiated in Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Tunisia and Syrian Arab Republic.
- The FAST initiative was launched with the support of this TCP, and eventually became a programme funded by the Government of Germany and hosted by FAO until 2025.

The project took the first steps towards the following activities, which address regional priorities: (i) the initiation and continuation of the climate and agriculture webinar series; (ii) laying the groundwork for the development of a regional CSA core curriculum and training course to support countries to implement agriculture priorities in their NDCs; (iii) initiation of resource mobilization discussions in Egypt, Jordan, Libya and Yemen; and (iv) clarification of FAO's value addition to support countries to submit their next round of NDCs (NDC 3.0).

2. Gender equality

No gender-related targets were specifically formulated at the project design stage; however, women and youth representation was actively sought in capacity-development activities and participation in events.

3. Environmental sustainability

The project activities aimed to support the resilience of agrifood, land, and water systems to climate change through the implementation of a variety of environmentally sustainable practices, including CSA, health and productivity over the long term. These practices enhance the capacity of ecosystems to withstand and recover from climate related shocks and stresses, thereby maintaining biodiversity, soil fertility, and water quality. By adopting techniques such as conservation tillage, agroforestry, and efficient water management, climate-resilient systems reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, sequester carbon, improve the overall ecological balance and significantly contribute to environmental sustainability by ensuring that agricultural, land, and water resources are used in a way that maintains their health and productivity over the long term.

4. Technological sustainability

The project organized both in-person and virtual engagements through the use of technology. It had a major emphasis on capacity building and the sharing of good practices, as evidenced by documentation, publications and the climate and agriculture webinar series.

The publication entitled "Towards Climate-Smart Agriculture in Egypt" focused on technology and innovative CSA practices.

5. Economic sustainability

As a result of the project, funding was mobilized by FAO Egypt for a project entitled "Promoting climate smart agriculture and agricultural biodiversity for enhancing the adaptive capacity of vulnerable rural communities in Old and New Lands in Upper and Lower Egypt" (GCP/EGY/039/CAN). As stated above, the FAST initiative has mobilized funding from the Government of Germany until 2025.

All of the resources developed were made available online to beneficiaries, planning agencies, partners and other stakeholders.



DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

- ❑ **AbdelMonem, M., Wong, T., Elbadawy, O., Faurès, J., Tawfic, M., Abouzeid, F. & Matteoli, F.** 2022. *Towards climate-smart agriculture in Egypt – Scaling up sustainable practices for enhancing agrifood system resilience and adaptive capacity.* Cairo. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2917en>
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2022. *Communications plan for COP27 for FAO-RNE.*
 - ❑ **COP27 Presidency, WHO and FAO.** 2022. *Stakeholder consultation for the COP27 Presidency initiative on nutrition.* Concept note.
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2022. *Stakeholder consultation for the COP27 Presidency initiative on food and agriculture, 14 April, Cairo.* Concept note.
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2022. *UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: addressing climate change through ecosystem-based adaptation. September 15.* Concept note.
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2023. *Capacity Building and Action Planning Workshop: Programming for DRR_CCA and Anticipatory Action in the NENA Region. October 17–20, Cairo.* Concept note.
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2023. *Official side event on forests and adaptation, Near East Forestry Week as part of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission, Amman, Jordan, 10-13 September.* Concept note.
 - ❑ **FAO.** (forthcoming). *Gender and climate change in the NENA region.* Cairo.
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2024. *Virtual Roundtable on Loss and Damage in Rural Livelihoods and Agrifood Systems in the NENA Region: Key Learnings.* Cairo. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd1508en>
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2022. *Pre-COP27 workshop on Agriculture and Climate Change in NENA region: Workshop report.* Cairo, FAO. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc7092en>
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2022. *The Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transitions Initiative (FAST).* Rome, FAO. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc2186en>
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2023. *Climate action and nutrition – Pathways to impact.* Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8415en>
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2023. *Food Policy Monitoring Brief for the NENA region.* Cairo. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd0303en>
 - ❑ **Wong, T., Abi Khalil, R., Moustafa, K., Lahham, N. and Fathallah, M.** n.d. *Towards climate resilient agrifood systems in the Arab region.* Webinar Series: FAO Regional Office for the Near East & North Africa, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and the League of Arab States. In: FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa. [Cited 24 June 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/neareast/main-topics/action-areas/addressing-climate-change-in-agrifood-systems/webinar-series/en>
 - ❑ **Szaboova, L.** 2023. *Climate change, migration and rural adaptation in the Near East and North Africa region.* Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3801en>
- Web Stories/Highlights**
- ❑ **FAO.** 2022. Agriculture and food systems finally on the table at COP27. Text by Clark, C. In: *FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa.* [Cited 7 May 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/neareast/news/details/Agriculture-and-food-systems-finally-on-the-table-at-COP27/en>
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2022. Egyptian COP27 Presidency convenes its first consultation on an agriculture and food security initiative, hosted by FAO. Text by FAO-RNE communications team. In: *FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa.* [Cited 7 May 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/neareast/news/details/Egyptian-COP27-Presidency-convenes-its-first-consultation-on-an-agriculture-and-food-security-initiative-hosted-by-FAO/en>
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2022. Enhancing forest potential for climate action in NENA countries. Text by Libert, A., Duchelle, A. and Wong, T. In: *FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa.* [Cited 7 May 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/neareast/news/details/Enhancing-forest-potential-for-climate-action-in-NENA-countries/en>
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2022. FAO Analysis shows how Nationally Determined Contributions are lighting the way for climate action in the Near East and North Africa region. Text by Bottiglieri, F. In: *Climate Change.* [Cited 7 May 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/climate-change/news/news-detail/FAO-Analysis-shows-how-Nationally-Determined-Contributions-are-lighting-the-way-for-climate-action-in-the-Near-East-and-North-Africa-region/en>
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2022. Food Security is at the top of the COP27 Agenda-Special Interview with the Regional Director of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – Mr. Abdul Hakim Elwaer. Text by FAO-RNE communications team. In: *inter-Regional Technical Platform on Water Scarcity.* [Cited 7 May 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/platforms/water-scarcity/news/detail/food-security-high-at-the-cop27-agenda-special-interview-with-the-regional-director-of-the-food-and-agriculture-organization-of-the-united-nations-mr.-abdul-hakim-elwaer/en>
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2022. Addressing climate change in agrifood systems in the NENA region. Text by Abi Khalil, R. & Wong, T. In: *FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa.* [Cited 7 May 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/neareast/main-topics/action-areas/addressing-climate-change-in-agrifood-systems/en>
 - ❑ **FAO.** 2023. Advancing regional priorities on climate change, agriculture and food security at COP28. Text by Abi Khalil, R. In: *inter-Regional Technical Platform on Water Scarcity.* [Cited 7 May 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/neareast/news/details/advancing-regional-priorities-on-climate-change--agriculture-and-food-security-at-cop28/en>

- ❑ **FAO. 2023.** Adapting to change: new FAO publication on climate change, migration and rural adaptation launched at COP28. Text by Prati, G. In: *FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa*. [Cited 18 June 2024]

<https://www.fao.org/neareast/news/details/adapting-to-change--new-fao-publication-on-climate-change--migration-and-rural-adaptation-launched-at-cop28/en>



Videos

- ❑ **FAO. 2022.** Climate Smart Agriculture Egypt COP27 [video]. [Cited 24 June 2024]. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBg9qfZU2YI&ab_channel=FoodandAgricultureOrganizationoftheUnitedNations
- ❑ **FAO. 2022.** Dr. Abdelhakim ElWaer Vision on COP27 [video]. [Cited 7 May 2024]. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9ALFUyigfo&t=1s&ab_channel=FoodandAgricultureOrganizationoftheUnitedNations

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Expected Impact	Agri-food sectors (including crops, fisheries, and livestock) transform to enhance adaptation and mitigation to climate change, support regional climate action, achieve SDG 13, and contribute to SDGs 2, 6, 7, 12, 14, 15	
Outcome	Climate change priorities in agriculture and the food sector at the national and regional levels strengthened	
	Indicator	Number of countries that communicate revised or new mitigation or adaptation actions in the agrifood and water sectors.
	Baseline	11 out of 19 NENA countries have submitted an updated NDC. (Countries submitted: Kuwait, Jordan, Mauritania, Tunisia, Palestine, Qatar, Oman, Morocco, Sudan, Lebanon, the UAE).
	End Target	8 NENA countries.
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	<p>- The project's end target was exceeded: 14 out of the 18 countries in the NENA region submitted updated NDCs that include adaptation and/or mitigation priorities for agrifood systems, exceeding the target of eight. FAO's work under this project contributed to the achievement of this result by enhancing connections between ministries and other stakeholders through events like the Pre-COP27 workshop, MENA Climate Weeks and by supporting the participation of agriculture stakeholders in these events so that they could highlight their priorities both nationally and globally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All 14 countries have updated priorities and targets related to adaptation actions in agriculture and food systems. - Ten out of the 14 countries have updated priorities and targets related to mitigation actions in agrifood systems. - Twelve of these countries included GHG targets relevant to the agriculture, forestry and other land uses (AFOLU) sectors. <p>- With the support of FAO in the lead-up to COP27, including to the Egyptian Presidency of COP27, the "Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security" was announced as Decision 3/CP.27 at the Conference (https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2022_10a01_adv.pdf).</p> <p>- The topic of agrifood systems was included in the framework decision of COP28 (Decision on the First Global Stocktake: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2023_16a01_adv.pdf), the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Decision on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements, including a fund, for responding to loss and damage (https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop28_auv_8g_ind.pdf), and Gender-responsive just transitions and climate action partnership (https://www.cop28.com/en/cop28-gender-responsive-just-transitions-and-climate-action-partnership).</p> <p>- Agriculture sectors of 19 countries in the region had their capacities built during in-person pre-COP training, participation in key UNFCCC events (including the COPs, MENA Climate Weeks and National Adaptation Plan Expo), and a climate change and agriculture webinar series.</p> <p>- Regional climate change and agriculture priorities were enhanced through support from this TCP project for organizing and facilitating side events at the COPs, Cairo Water Week, MENA Climate Week, Local Conferences on Youth (LCOY) and other fora, and financially and technically supporting COP pavilions such as the Water for Climate Pavilion and the UN in Egypt Pavilion.</p> <p>- Regional climate change and agriculture priorities were enhanced through the support of the Egyptian COP27 Presidency in convening and launching agrifood system and water-related priorities.</p> <p>- Regional climate change and agriculture priorities were enhanced through the mapping of agriculture and climate action in the region, including gender-responsive and bioeconomy climate actions for scaling up, and raising awareness with countries on issues such as loss and damage and transboundary sand and dust storms.</p> <p>- The regional TCP supported the follow-up actions and ongoing initiatives between the transition of COP presidency from Egypt to the United Arab Emirates.</p>

Expected Impact	Agri-food sectors (including crops, fisheries, and livestock) transform to enhance adaptation and mitigation to climate change, support regional climate action, achieve SDG 13, and contribute to SDGs 2, 6, 7, 12, 14, 15		
Outcome	Climate change priorities in agriculture and the food sector at the national and regional levels strengthened		
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow-up actions: i) FAO is building on the momentum of COP27 and COP28 in the region to help countries continue to articulate and implement agriculture, water and land use priorities in their NDCs and ensure that future commitments from the sector are measurable, effective and sufficiently ambitious; and ii) FAO continues to build capacities of agriculture sector actors in the region to follow mandated processes such as the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, the First Global Stocktake, the Global Goal on Adaptation, mitigation workstreams, and loss and damage associated with climate change. - Through this TCP, FAO initiated the above-mentioned efforts. FAO will continue to explore opportunities to mobilize further resources to support countries in implementing agrifood systems priorities in their NDCs. 	
Output 1	The Government of Egypt is supported in its role as host of COP27 to highlight climate action in the agri-food sectors		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of events, communication materials and discussion papers developed to support the Government of Egypt on COP27 on climate change and agriculture.	4	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO convened the regional consultation on agriculture and food security to design an initiative to support climate action in agrifood systems. The FAST initiative was then launched at a high-level ministerial event at COP27, and the resulting partnership was financed for its inception and launch at COP28. - FAO convened the first stakeholder consultation of the COP27 Presidency's I-CAN. Since then, FAO has become an active partner in I-CAN with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other United Nations agencies and partners, such as the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). - FAO provided inputs for the first consultation on the COP27 Presidency's AWARE. - FAO organized, at the request of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, a partner meeting for the AWARE initiative on the sidelines of Cairo Water Week in 2022. - FAO provided technical and financial support to the Egypt Smart Green Initiative through an expert review of agriculture project applications and support for winning participants to travel to Sharm El-Sheikh for the presentation of projects at a COP27 event. - Together with FAO Egypt, in response to a request from the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, consultants from FAO provided time, technical, financial and publication support for the development of the report "Towards Climate-Smart Agriculture in Egypt"; the production of an advocacy video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBg9qfZU2YI&ab_channel=FoodandAgricultureOrganizationoftheUnitedNations); and the organization of COP27 side events to promote the findings of the report. - FAO supported the hosting of several side events at the UN Egypt Pavilion during COP27 to foster dialogue and collaboration on key issues related to food and agriculture in the context of climate change in Egypt (https://www.fao.org/egypt/cop27/en/). 		
Activity 1.1	Development of discussion papers and information notes		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Several notes were developed by FAO that captured key messages and insights from the events organized in preparation for COP27 and COP28:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A summary of the first stakeholder consultation on the COP27 agriculture initiative, which became the FAST Partnership. - A background note on the FAST Partnership. - A background note on the Initiative on the CRSP. - A note on FAO's contribution to the "50 by 2050" Global Waste Initiative. 	

Activity 1.2	Development of side events on climate change, agri-food systems and environment to support Egypt as host of COP27	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	<p>During COP27, FAO organized a high-level side event with the attendance of the Egyptian Minister of Environment, the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, and the Assistant Director-General of the FAO NENA Regional Office. The event was on “Supporting transformative climate actions in agriculture and land use in Egypt through the Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through NDCs and NAPs (SCALA) programme” (https://www.fao.org/in-action/scala/overview/about/en).</p> <p>FAO organized a side event on sustainable agriculture for resilient rural communities in Egypt. The event was attended by the lead Coordinator of the Egyptian Initiative on Smart Green Projects; civil society representatives; the founder and president of the Knowledge Economy Foundation; the Regional Director for Land at the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), the FAO Representative in Egypt, and the Assistant Director-General of FAO NENA. FAO presented the report entitled “Towards Climate Smart Agriculture in Egypt”, showing examples of CSA practices from different farming systems in Egypt and their contributions to the three pillars of CSA. FAO organized a high-level event to underline how the empowerment of rural women in Egypt is critical to accelerating efforts towards effective water management and climate change adaptation. Interventions from the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Ministry of International Cooperation, CEDARE and civil society, represented by a delegate of the WeCan Community of Practice, highlighted the need to continue investing in data and knowledge generation, capacity development tailored to rural women’s needs, and the upscaling of gender-transformative approaches that address unequal social and cultural norms.</p> <p>FAO co-organized a side event, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), called “One Planet One Health”. The event discussed the challenges of climate change and assessed the required actions for facilitating cross-sectoral collaboration to manage public health threats at the human, animal and ecosystem interface in light of the One Health Global Plan developed and led by FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), WHO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). The session was facilitated by WHO Egypt with the participation of the Deputy Minister of Health, WOAH Regional Representative, FAO Representative in Egypt, Chief Veterinary Officer for Egypt and a representative of UNEP.</p> <p>During Biodiversity Day, FAO jointly organized a nutrition side event with WHO, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) and gave a presentation entitled “Nutrition-sensitive Climate Smart Agriculture” where the importance of a healthy sustainable diet that has low water and carbon footprints was discussed, as was the role of CSA as an approach to addressing climate change and nutrition.</p> <p>FAO organized a capacity-building workshop for subsector agriculture teams on climate adaptation planning and COP27 as part of the SCALA programme.</p>
Activity 1.3	Organization of meetings where necessary to support Government of Egypt and LAS on requests related to COP27	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	<p>On the sidelines of COP27, FAO convened the “Regional consultation on agriculture and food security” (April 2022) for an agrifood-related Presidency initiative. This initiative developed into FAST, one of the COP27 initiatives. A second consultation on the FAST initiative was held with Permanent Representatives to Egypt, and a third consultation was held at the Bonn Climate Conference.</p> <p>FAO organized a pre-COP27 workshop on agriculture and climate change (November 2022) with the participation of national practitioners and climate change and agriculture focal points from 11 countries. The event provided the opportunity to exchange on and gain a greater understanding of how to engage with climate change processes toward the improved implementation of national climate action in agrifood systems. The event report provided key messages, recommendations, and priorities per country (https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc7092en).</p>
Activity 1.4	Production of one advocacy video on climate change and agri-food sector in Egypt and the NENA region	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	<p>FAO technically and financially supported the creation of a video to accompany the CSA publication (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBg9qfZU2YI&ab_channel=FoodandAgricultureOrganizationoftheUnitedNations).</p>

Activity 1.5	Editing, translation, design and dissemination of agendas, discussion papers and information notes		
	Achieved	Yes	
Activity 1.5	Comments	<p>FAO prepared, edited and designed the graphics for numerous reports and notes for publication and dissemination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concept notes and agendas of various events and COP27 side events. - Meeting summary on the Regional consultation on Agriculture and Food Security (April 2022). - A workshop report on the pre-COP event on agriculture and climate change (https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc7092en). 	
	Discussion papers and information notes related to agriculture, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and water are generated as input to meetings and negotiations in the pre-COP and COP27		
Output 2	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number. of policy briefs, discussion papers and information notes developed to provide inputs to MENACW, pre-COP and COP27.	3	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	<p>Together with FAO Egypt, the publication entitled “Towards Climate-Smart Agriculture in Egypt” was developed (https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2917en). It was launched during COP27. This publication examines several interventions and practices implemented in Egypt by small-scale farmers, private sector stakeholders, and the state, and analyses the extent to which they contribute to the three pillars of CSA for building a more sustainable and resilient agrifood system. Such practices were identified and documented through field visits to different agroecological areas, representing the major farming systems in Egypt. The information note entitled “Loss and Damage in Rural Livelihoods and Agrifood Systems in the NENA Region: Key learnings” was forthcoming at the time of reporting, as was the information note on gender and climate in the NENA region.</p>		
Activity 2.1	Development of TORs for specialized consultants to develop information notes and discussion papers, and regional consultation agenda		
	Achieved	Yes	
Activity 2.1	Comments	<p>Several consultants were hired to provide expertise in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitation and documentation for the pre-COP27 workshop. - Gender and climate change mapping. - Facilitation and documentation of the “Roundtable on Loss and Damage”. - Technical support for a virtual capacity-building webinar series. <p>The consultants contributed to the development of the COP27 communications plan, organization and facilitation of side events, documentation of meetings and engagements and the creation of various notes and knowledge products.</p>	
	Development of discussion papers and information notes		
Activity 2.2	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Several notes and discussion papers were developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A note on the Virtual Roundtable on Loss and Damage in Rural Livelihoods and Agrifood Systems in the NENA Region: Key learnings (forthcoming). - A note on the FAO contribution to the “50 by 2050” Global Waste Initiative. 	

Activity 2.3	Development of agenda, concept note and content of regional consultation	
	Achieved	Yes
Activity 2.4	Comments	<p>Working alongside the COP27 Presidency team, FAO organized the Regional consultation on Agriculture and Food Security covering NENA in April 2022. The event provided an open forum for stakeholders and potential partners to share views, existing projects, initiatives, and priorities as inputs into an initiative on agriculture and food security. The FAO team developed the event concept note and a summary note on the event.</p> <p>FAO organized a pre-COP27 workshop on agriculture and climate change in the NENA region in Cairo (November 2022) with the participation of national practitioners and focal points in climate change and agriculture from 11 countries. The event provided the opportunity to exchange knowledge and gain a greater understanding of how to engage with climate change processes for the improved implementation of national climate action in agrifood systems. See https://www.fao.org/neareast/events/details/Pre-COP27-Workshop-Agriculture-and-Climate-Change-in-the-Near-East-and-North-Africa/en for more. The FAO team developed the workshop concept note and the workshop report (https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc7092en), which provided key messages and recommendations per country.</p> <p>Responding to needs articulated at the pre-COP27 workshop, FAO, together with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and the League of Arab States (LAS) developed the concept note for a webinar series on climate-resilient agrifood systems in the Arab region. The webinars, organized between June and November 2023, covered a range of topics, including net zero solutions in agriculture, loss and damage, agriculture in UNFCCC negotiations, and the use of climate information for National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). See https://www.fao.org/neareast/main-topics/action-areas/addressing-climate-change-in-agrifood-systems/webinar-series/en for more.</p>
	Achieved	Yes
Activity 2.5	Regional consultation on climate change, agriculture and the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture organized	
	Comments	<p>To support regional discussions under the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA), FAO supported the participation of a key delegate to the informal consultations convened by the Egyptian Presidency in November 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh. The objective of the informal Koronivia dialogue was to facilitate mutual understanding of the KJWA between parties to form a draft decision for consideration and adoption at COP27 on the modalities for the future of the Joint Work.</p>
Activity 2.5	Editing, translation, design and dissemination of discussion papers and information notes	
	Comments	<p>Several documents, including reports and informational materials, were edited and graphically designed: The FAST initiative flyer in English (https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc8159en) and Arabic (https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/9c89f3d5-ec52-42fc-b8ed-09f635a3dd5d); ii) the publication "Towards Climate-Smart Agriculture in Egypt" (https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc2917en); and iii) a summary of the Regional consultation on Agriculture and Food Security.</p>
Achieved	Yes	

Output 3	Capacity and engagement of countries in the region enhanced on agri-food, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture and water in relation to climate change to facilitate their participation in COP27		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of meetings, dialogues and activities integrating agriculture, livestock, fisheries and water in pre-COP and COP27 with the support of FAO.	Five region-focused events with contributions and support of FAO.	Yes
Baseline	0 events		
Comments	<p>Recognizing the significance of strong regional engagement in the agriculture sectors, including livestock, fisheries, and water, within the NENA region's agrifood systems, FAO, through this TCP project, aimed to enhance the capacities of regional agriculture sector representatives. This intervention was designed to enable their effective participation in COP27, COP28 and other regional climate change processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO organized a virtual roundtable on Loss and Damage in Rural Livelihoods and Agrifood Systems in the NENA Region, in November 2023, in collaboration with FAO's Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, and the AOAD of the LAS. Nearly 30 people participated, both in-person and online. The roundtable aimed to foster collaboration and unlock solutions to mitigate the impact of climate change on agriculture and food security in the region. - At the inaugural MENA Climate Week in Dubai in April 2022, FAO highlighted the major priorities of NENA countries in their NDCs on agriculture and food security by organizing four side events on NDCs and food security, water scarcity, conflict and water; and the "blue transformation" of fisheries and aquaculture. Representatives from Ministries of Agriculture and Water of two countries were supported to participate and speak. - FAO participated in around a dozen events at the second edition of MENA Climate Week in Riyadh in October 2023, reinforcing its partnership with Members, United Nations agencies and others to highlight the needs and solutions related to climate action in agrifood systems, including in ecosystem restoration and addressing land degradation. - FAO organized many side events at the Water & Climate Pavilion during COP27 and was designated the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation's main institutional partner in this Pavilion. FAO organized the Water Pavilion Steering Committee meeting to finalize the Pavilion programme at Cairo Water Week in October 2022. - FAO organized several side events at the Food and Agriculture Pavilion during both COP27 and COP28. 		
Activity 3.1	Development of TOR and workplan		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	A consultant was hired to support the organization of interventions and side events at COP27 and COP28.	
Activity 3.2	Participation in MENA Climate Week		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Representatives from Ministries of Agriculture and Water of Oman and Palestine were supported to participate and speak during MENA Climate Week in 2022.</p> <p>The list of events organized during the Week included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Resilient Food Systems under Climate Change: co-organized along with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Global Resilience Partnership (GRP). - Enhancing agrifood system priorities in the NDCs during which FAO launched the "Regional Analysis of Nationally Determined Contributions in the Near East and North Africa: Opportunities and Gaps in the Agriculture, Water and Land Use Sectors" (https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8662en). <p>This landmark publication analyses risks, actions and needs in the agriculture, forestry, and land use sectors for the NDCs of NENA countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transparency of action and support: Co-organized along with UNFCCC, the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) and the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement (PATPA), the events fostered experience exchange on building and sustaining transparency arrangements. FAO facilitated the participation of officials from Palestine, Jordan and Morocco. - Achieving climate-resilient food security in the NENA region: This event was a live interview with the Assistant Director-General of FAO NENA and aimed to showcase the intersections between the food and climate agendas, the significance of the Food Systems Summit, and how the agrifood system is an important locus for solutions to the climate problem as well as to pressing issues in the region, such as water scarcity. <p>Sponsored ministry delegates also contributed to speaking at side events on "Building momentum to close adaptation knowledge gaps in the MENA region: Focus on climate-smart agriculture and nature-based solutions" and "Climate-smart agri-food systems for MENA", organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat and International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), respectively.</p>	

Activity 3.3	Participation in pre-COP (likely Egypt)		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Since no pre-COP event was organized by UNFCCC, FAO supported the participation of national representatives of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and developing countries at the National Adaptation Plan Expo in Botswana (August 2022) to enhance the capacities of representatives and conduct knowledge exchange on adaptation planning and climate finance (Egypt, Mauritania, the Sudan and Yemen).	
Activity 3.4	Participation in COP27 (Sharm El-Sheik)		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	FAO supported the participation of national government representatives from five countries working in the agriculture or environment sectors from Iraq, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman and the Sudan focusing on agriculture at COP27, and three were sent to COP28. FAO organized a Water4Climate Pavilion Thematic Day on CSA, in collaboration with IWMI. FAO designed four technical sessions, two high-level sessions and closed the day with 'Stories from the Desert', bringing together Indigenous Peoples' voices and stories on adapting to fragile, water-scarce conditions and a changing climate. The thematic day also saw the launch of RNE's State of Land and Water Resources report. FAO, together with CGIAR and the Rockefeller Foundation, hosted the Food and Agriculture Pavilion. FAO organized two side events, one on the digitalization of agrifood systems for global food security, and one on climate risks to water resources for food security: linking global, regional, and national responses.	
Activity 3.5	Documentation of meetings and engagements		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Several meetings were held in the year leading up to COP27, and many reports were produced and disseminated, including those linked to elsewhere in this report (see Activity 2.3).	
Output 4	Discussion papers and information notes related to agriculture, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and water are generated as input to meetings and negotiations in the pre-COP and COP27		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of policy briefs, discussion papers and information notes developed to provide inputs to MENACW, pre-COP and COP27.	Five press releases and two opinion columns or research articles published.	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	FAO organized side events at the MENA Climate Weeks, COP27 and COP28 to raise awareness of regional priorities. The launch of the regional State of Land and Water Resources (SOLAW) and regional NDC analysis were covered by articles and press releases, featured on websites, and enhanced to draw audiences to the importance of addressing agrifood systems in climate action, including regional drivers of water scarcity, land degradation and natural resources management. A dedicated webpage was developed to present FAO RNE's participation at COP27.		
	Articles and web stories produced by the FAO communications team		
	<p>- "Agriculture and food systems finally on the table at COP27": https://www.fao.org/neareast/news/details/Agriculture-and-food-systems-finally-on-the-table-at-COP27/en</p> <p>- "Enhancing forest potential for climate action in NENA countries": https://twitter.com/FAOinNENA_EN/status/1512443750152388608</p> <p>- "Egyptian COP27 Presidency convenes its first consultation on an agriculture and food security initiative, hosted by FAO": https://www.fao.org/neareast/news/details/Egyptian-COP27-Presidency-convenes-its-first-consultation-on-an-agriculture-and-food-security-initiative-hosted-by-FAO/en</p> <p>- "Pre-COP27 Workshop: Agriculture and Climate Change in the Near East and North Africa": https://www.fao.org/neareast/events/details/Pre-COP27-Workshop-Agriculture-and-Climate-Change-in-the-Near-East-and-North-Africa/en</p> <p>- "Advancing regional priorities on climate change, agriculture and food security at COP28": https://www.fao.org/neareast/news/details/advancing-regional-priorities-on-climate-change--agriculture-and-food-security-at-cop28/en</p>		
Social media			
On X (formerly Twitter), over 120 posts in English and Arabic were shared by FAO channels, gaining around 62 000 views.			
Examples:			
Arabic tweet: https://twitter.com/FAOinNENA/status/1588480946151780352			
English tweet: https://twitter.com/FAOinNENA_EN/status/1588479248356216832			

Output 4	Discussion papers and information notes related to agriculture, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and water are generated as input to meetings and negotiations in the pre-COP and COP27	
Comments	<p><u>International news coverage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Al Ghad: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lr5tpWorX84 - CBC Egypt: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQSj2lymYKQ - Al Sharq – Bloomberg: http://bit.ly/3ENkPrM - British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Arabic : http://bit.ly/3gG2WU3 - Al Hurra: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFuAcYOSNmY - Canadian Broadcasting Corporation: https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-57-sunday-edition - Lianhe Zaobao: https://www.zaobao.com.sg/news/world/story20221117-1333920?fbclid=IwAR2d1pz4EiEpPHkUUrp9Nm07gX-XVVKZsW97WkaZFFQioNs_RgC8XPMUQYg 	
Activity 4.1	Development of TOR and work planning	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	A consultant specializing in communication and technical support for capacity building was supported by the project to develop and implement the COP27 communication plan in collaboration with the FAO communication team and to contribute to the organization of meetings and side events, including drafting concept notes and agendas.
Activity 4.2	Development of a communications strategy	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The RNE communications team, along with hired consultants, developed a communication plan that included (i) key messages; (ii) a media and public relations plan; (iii) documents to be published and launched during COP27; (iv) awareness-raising and advocacy actions; and (v) the organization of side events.
Activity 4.3	Regional key messages generated	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The FAO team contributed to the production of key messages at COP27 and COP28 (https://www.fao.org/climate-change/fao-at-cop-28/key-messages/en), highlighting regional issues of concern.
Activity 4.4	Regional case studies documented	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	A project-mapping exercise was initiated to identify, visualize, and analyse various aspects of FAO climate change projects implemented in the NENA region. This inventory aimed, among other things, to create a better understanding of how these projects align with the region's priorities. It also helped to identify gaps in coverage, funding, and focus areas that may require additional attention or resources.
Activity 4.5	Design of communications material, and dissemination	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	Communication materials for COP27 were developed, including a visual identity and business cards in Arabic and English
Activity 4.6	Monitoring and evaluation of impact of communications	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	A report was produced on FAO's contribution to COP27, including an evaluation of communication actions and their reach in newspapers, social media and mainstream media.

Partnerships and Outreach

For more information, please contact: Reporting@fao.org

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