



Fiji and FAO

Partnering to improve food security and income-earning opportunities

Cooperation between Fiji and FAO has been ongoing since the country joined the Organization in 1971. Over the past 45 years, FAO assistance has focused on building the evidence base and capacities for policy-making, protecting and enhancing natural resources and building resilience to natural disasters. Fiji is involved in FAO's new initiative on ValueChains for Food Security and Nutrition in the Pacific Islands. Fiji hosted and chaired the 34th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (9-13 April 2018, Nadi) (APRC). The Chairperson of the 34th Session of the APRC was invited to present the Report of the Regional Conference on programme and budget matters to the FAO Council (4-8 June 2018).

Building resilience to natural disasters

The 2014 United Nations World Risk Report ranks Fiji as one of the world's 15 most exposed countries to natural hazards. The risk of cyclones, storm surges and floods has increased, and natural disasters, potential impacts of climate change and a rise in sea level threaten to have more adverse effects on the country's agriculture sector in the future.

Over the past 40 years, FAO has helped Fiji to recover and rehabilitate its agriculture, forestry and fisheries activities following emergencies. Today, more than ever, climate change mitigation and adaptation, together with disaster preparedness and management, are priority areas in the development of appropriate policy and strategies.

FAO has implemented projects with the aim of enhancing national and local capacities to integrate disaster risk reduction in agriculture. Major efforts will be dedicated to strengthening communities' knowledge and means to identify and mitigate risks affecting food security.

It will include the development and use of tools supporting community-based food security monitoring, early warning and early action.

Project: funded by the Disaster Preparedness Programme of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department.

SUBREGIONAL SCOPE – COUNTRY FOCUS

Strategic direction for FAO assistance to Fiji is provided by the 2018-2022 Country Programming Framework (CPF) for the Pacific Subregion, which balances regional-level initiatives with demand driven country-specific plans for 14 Pacific Island Countries. Across the region, assistance is centred on three priority areas:

- Safe and healthy food production and consumption
- Resilient agriculture, fisheries and forestry production systems
- Efficient agri-food value chains that provide safe, nutritious and affordable food

Aligning FAO's expertise to Fiji's development priorities

In addition to the above region-wide priorities, FAO's interventions at the country level reflect the goals of the Fiji 2020 Agriculture Sector Development Agenda, which aims to establish a diversified and economically and environmentally sustainable agriculture economy.

Accordingly, the dual focus of FAO's 2018-2022 CPF for Fiji is on: sustainable increase in production, trade and marketing of domestic agriculture products, and healthy consumption of diverse, safe and nutritious food.

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Building the evidence base and capacities for policy-making

Improving agricultural and market statistics

Sound information and accurate statistics are prerequisites of the planning process necessary for achieving development targets. Over the past four decades, FAO and the Government have partnered to strengthen the Agricultural Statistics Unit, which is part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Primary Industries. Together with assistance in conducting agricultural censuses, FAO has supported the Government in creating a dedicated information management mechanism – the Fiji Agricultural Statistics System – ensuring the regular collection, collation and dissemination of sound agricultural and market data. To guarantee sustainability of the system, national staff were trained and the capacities of the Agricultural Statistics Unit were developed to ensure effective collection of community-level data and the inclusion of use-supply accounts and food balance sheets in the market information system.

The 27th Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics was held in Nadi in March 2018. It focused on policies, statistics and data, which are key to establishing baselines, clarifying needs and responding to agricultural and nutritional challenges.

On the occasion, FAO launched the Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics, a landmark Strategic Plan, jointly prepared by FAO and the Pacific Community (SPC) to improve the quality and quantity of statistics in the Pacific region.

Protecting Fiji's natural resource base

Sustainable approaches to resource management

The sustainable management of natural resources and protection of the country's valuable and unique biodiversity are key priorities in FAO's interventions, which have focused on environmental planning for river improvement, land use, forest utilization and enhanced customary marine fisheries tenure.

FAO assisted the Government in implementing biodiversity projects to establish an integrated system of protected areas. As part of project activities, existing and potential protected areas have been surveyed and their biodiversity resources assessed, while land-owning communities around protected areas have received support enabling them to apply appropriate land management techniques. The project has also proved beneficial for agricultural extension workers, who have gained a greater understanding of the different factors involved in ensuring sustainable land management.

Training delivered under a soil partnership jointly led by FAO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) has enabled the extension workers to analyse and interpret soil conditions and to pass their new knowledge on to communities. Support to sustainable land and forest management are to continue with a view to improving the condition and productivity of agro-sylvo-pastoral landscapes affected by land degradation and drought.

Strengthening plant protection and biosecurity support

With the spread of pests and diseases posing a major threat to food resources, FAO provided technical support to strengthen farmers' capacities to adopt sustainable agricultural practices. In particular, more than 20 farmer field schools have been established for promoting an agro-ecological approach and integrated pest management in vegetable and rice production. Fiji has also been supported with the review of biosecurity legislation, capacity strengthening for quarantine border protection, and trade and pesticide management.

Providing strategic advice

Clear sector policy and strategies based on credible evidence are crucial for improving agriculture performance and sustainability. FAO has provided technical assistance to strengthen policy and planning through capacity building and related advisory services. Recent contributions include a five-year (2018-2022) strategic development plan for the agriculture sector; a strategic plan for the implementation of Codex Alimentarius; and a feasibility study for the introduction of agricultural insurance. Fiji's first overarching policy on planted forests is also being formulated with FAO technical assistance.

"Building resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises is one of FAO's top priorities."

FAO Director-General

