



Regional Initiatives

FAO's STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

 <p>Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition</p>	 <p>Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable</p>	 <p>Reduce rural poverty</p>	 <p>Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems</p>	 <p>Increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters</p>
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CORPORATE AREAS for RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

REGIONAL INITIATIVES				
<p>Africa's Renewed Partnership to End Hunger by 2025</p>	<p>Integrated Management of Agricultural Landscapes in Africa</p>	<p>Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms in Europe and Central Asia</p>	<p>Value Chains for Food Security and Nutrition in the Pacific Islands</p>	<p>Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands</p>
<p>Asia and the Pacific's Zero Hunger Challenge</p>	<p>Asia and the Pacific's Regional Rice Initiative</p>	<p>Family Farming and Rural Territorial Development in Latin America and the Caribbean</p>	<p>Agrifood Trade and Regional Integration in Europe and Central Asia</p>	
<p>Support to the Hunger-Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative</p>	<p>Asia and the Pacific's Blue Growth Initiative</p>	<p>Small-scale Agriculture for Inclusive Development in the Near East and North Africa</p>	<p>Improving Food Systems in the Caribbean</p>	<p>Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition in the Near East and North Africa</p>
	<p>Near East and North Africa's Water Scarcity Initiative</p>			

COUNTRY PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORKS (CPFs)

Africa's Renewed Partnership to End Hunger by 2025

This Partnership calls for accelerated action by member countries in the fight against hunger through the establishment of ambitious targets within the CAADP framework. It aims to add value to ongoing work at country level by sharpening its focus on food security and nutrition, and by identifying concrete windows of opportunity for promoting an integrated approach to food security.



Integrated Management of Agricultural Landscapes in Africa

This builds on ongoing promotion of best practices regarding the principles of on-farm and off-farm production and post-production processes, and addresses the need to improve productivity and create decent rural employment, especially for young people, tackling the urbanization/migration challenges.



Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands

This Initiative aims to strengthen institutional capacity for resilience; support early warning and information management systems; build community level resilience; and respond to emergencies and crises.



Asia and the Pacific's Zero Hunger Challenge

This initiative provides technical support to national governments for a) formulating and operationalizing national food security policies including national action plans to achieve zero hunger, b) improving capacity for measurement and calculation of undernourishment, and c) implementing policies and strategies to improve child nutrition and reduce stunting.



Asia and the Pacific's Regional Rice Initiative

The aims of this Initiative are to a) allow for innovative and sustainable practices by rice farmers and producers through the effective provision and utilization of rice ecosystem services and goods, b) build a knowledge base and evidence for resource use and production efficiency through the adoption of sustainable rice-based ecosystem approaches, and c) realize food-secure, better nourished and prosperous rice farmers and consumers in the Asia-Pacific region through the formulation and implementation of rice strategies at country level.



Asia and the Pacific's Blue Growth Initiative

This Initiative focuses on supporting sustainable management of natural resources for better production efficiency. This will be done through improved governance, ecosystem approaches and participatory processes in planning and management and actions to improve implementation at different levels, which contribute to reduction of poverty, increased food security and improved nutrition of rural communities. It emphasizes promoting good production practices, applying appropriate tools for effective monitoring ecological and social and economic impacts, improved resource rents, supporting management of transboundary issues and adaptation to climate change to ensure the sustainable intensification in aquaculture production.



Value Chains for Food Security and Nutrition in the Pacific Islands

Pacific institutions and national partners will be supported to improve the capacity of local food producers and related businesses to supply more food to domestic and tourist markets to meet demands for a balanced and nutritious diet. This includes supporting the development of policy and regulatory frameworks which, in turn, rely on improvements in capacity to assemble, integrate, analyse and disseminate information on food, nutrition and natural resources. In addition, capacity to participate in the development of international standards relevant to the food systems of the Pacific Islands will be enhanced and national systems to assure compliance with such standards will be strengthened. Complementary efforts will be made through field projects set out in the Pacific FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) to provide technical assistance to the creation of sustainable and inclusive value chains.



Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms in Europe and Central Asia

The focus of the Initiative's work is at institutional and community level, aiming to achieve three results: i) increased participation of farmers and rural communities in national development; ii) enhanced sustainable and inclusive growth of rural economies, and iii) improved sustainable management of natural resources and resilience against harsh climates. It will build upon the International Year of Family Farming, the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure, and established partnerships, such as the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG), the LANDNET network on land tenure issues, the cooperation with the European Union in the region, and the priorities of the CPFs of the targeted countries.



Agrifood Trade and Regional Integration in Europe and Central Asia

The purpose of this Initiative is to increase the capacity of national institutions to engage in the implementation of regional agreements that enhance participation in international agrifood trade, and to maximise the benefit of trade policies through appropriate accompanying measures and improved public services. The main area of work will aim to enhance the capacity of REU countries to engage in formulating and implementing international and regional policies, regulations and other frameworks, which promote fair and safe trade and enhance global and regional market opportunities and participation.



Support to the Hunger-Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative

The aim is to support the design and implementation of multisectoral public policies and coordinated national programmes. This effort will have to be accompanied by improvements in institutions, legal frameworks, information and the human/fiscal resources needed to reach food and nutritional security national goals. This Initiative will face other challenges related to guaranteeing cooperation between different sectors and ensuring inclusion of different stakeholders such as civil society, parliamentarians, academia, indigenous peoples, producers and consumers' organizations, and the private sector in this collaborative process. The Initiative is also a regional political platform for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition to promote south-south and north-cooperation actions. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States' (CELAC) Plan for Poverty Eradication and Petrocaribe are regional efforts to be supported. Priority Countries (12): Antigua y Barbuda, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



Family Farming and Rural Territorial Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Initiative aims to promote rural development processes where family farming plays a central role. It seeks to support member countries in the region through the strengthening of government capacities to facilitate inclusive, people-centred (gender, ethnic and age) policies and the sustainable management of natural resources systems, to address culturally diverse food systems; increase access of family farmers to public services, productive resources and markets; strengthen producer organizations; increase levels of production, productivity and competitiveness of family farmers; and reduce high vulnerability to climatic risks and environmental threats. It also promotes decent rural employment and establishes synergies between social protection schemes and agriculture and rural development programmes. The initiative will support the CELAC's Action Plan on Hunger and Food Security, in particular the Agenda on Family Farming and Rural Development. Priority Countries (7): Bolivia, Guatemala and Haiti (Phase I); El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Paraguay (Phase II).



Improving Food Systems in the Caribbean

The Initiative will address two fundamental problems faced by countries across the Caribbean region: limited value chain development of food and feed crops; and low utilization of domestic agricultural products. Priority countries are expected to develop and establish sustainable food systems through improved policy and governance for increased investment, production, employment, trade and consumption. This will result in improved access to quality food and improved nutrition through changed consumption patterns. Priority countries (8): the poorest, most food insecure and vulnerable member countries of Caribbean Community (CARICOM), specially Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname.



Near East and North Africa's Water Scarcity Initiative

This Initiative aims to identify and streamline policies and best practices that can significantly improve agricultural productivity and food security. It promotes a regional collaborative strategy that focuses on the major priority areas such as strategic planning of water resources, governance, water management efficiency, water supply augmenting, climate change adaptation and drought management, ground water sustainability, benchmarking, monitoring of and reporting on water use efficiency and productivity in the region.

**Small-scale Agriculture for Inclusive Development in the Near East and North Africa**

This Initiative covers three main components: a) evidence-based policy and strategies to improve and enhance the small-scale agricultural sector and the livelihoods of those involved, b) sustainable improvement of productivity of small-scale agriculture, aiming at youth inclusiveness in the agricultural sector, and c) the institutions and empowerment of smallholders, through the support to enabling environments for economically viable and sustainable development in small-scale agriculture.

**Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition in the Near East and North Africa**

The Initiative's main goal is to strengthen the resilience of countries, communities and households to shocks and crises affecting food security and nutrition in the Near East and North Africa. It focuses on developing efficient evidence-based food security information and knowledge exchange for effective decision support systems; promoting the development of efficient, sustainable and resilient food systems; promoting sustainable access of households to safe, nutritious and diversified food; and building resilience to anticipate, absorb and recover from the negative impacts of human-induced and natural shocks.





Africa's Renewed Partnership to End Hunger by 2025

REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN AFRICA

Accelerating action through expanded partnerships

WHAT

In June 2014, the African Union summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, endorsed the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. One of the main tenets of the Declaration is the "Commitment to Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025". This grew out of the Renewed Partnership to End Hunger in Africa by 2025, established in 2012 between key partners including the African Union Commission, its NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), the Lula Institute and FAO. The Malabo commitment to ending hunger is catalysing high-level political support and leadership for concerted actions to eradicate hunger on the continent.

This FAO Regional Initiative responds to requests for support from the Governments of Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi and the Niger to enhance national capacities to plan, coordinate and finance food security and nutrition. It contributes to the larger African Union implementation strategy for the Malabo commitment. Finally, it provides an operational instrument to help translate the vision and goals of the Africa Union Agenda 2063 as well as the United Nation's Zero Hunger Challenge into concrete actions on the continent.

In this context, the Regional Initiative serves as a key pillar of FAO's work in the Africa region.



Niger adopts ambitious agricultural transformation plan

In 2011, in the face of persistent food production deficits and significant levels of food insecurity, the President of Niger initiated an ambitious agricultural transformation plan called the 3N Initiative – *Nigériens nourrissent les Nigériens* (Nigeriens Feeding Nigeriens). The 3N Initiative aims to address the root causes of food and nutrition insecurity in Niger, while providing appropriate responses to emergencies and economic insecurity faced by a large segment of the population. FAO is working to strengthen the capacities of the Niger high commission of the 3N Initiative, relevant technical ministries and local governments to deliver coordinated programmes and services in 35 focus communes. Through targeted investment and coherent, integrated and focused delivery of programmes at commune or district level, Niger is working to increase the productivity, resilience, sustainability and profitability of production systems and to improve nutrition and livelihoods. Together with High Commission officials, FAO has designed an operational plan for implementing the 3N Initiative in the focus communes.

HOW

At country level, the Regional Initiative is anchored in Presidential Initiatives, resilience and social protection programmes, and national policy and programme processes, including the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) investment plans. It adds value to ongoing country efforts by strengthening their focus on food security and nutrition, human and institutional capacities, and results frameworks for greater investment and improved programme delivery. In line with the very nature of food security and nutrition, it contributes to more



effective intersectoral coordination, inclusive governance mechanisms and improved evidence-based decision-making. The Regional Initiative supports FAO's Country Programming Frameworks and builds on existing programmes and initiatives.

The component embraces three main priorities: (i) enhanced support to efforts in the initial focus countries (Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi and the Niger) through increased productivity, reduced post-harvest losses and greater investment in social protection programmes; (ii) the establishment of an African Centre for Best Practice, Capacity Development and South-South Cooperation; (iii) the establishment of a think-tank for strategic implementation that provides space for high-level analysis, discussion and recommendations for actions in support of hunger eradication.

MAIN RESULTS EXPECTED

- **a common vision and political commitment among country and sub-regional stakeholders** for unified action to urgently and meaningfully reduce the prevalence of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition;
- **a shared analysis, understanding and commitment** to implementing a coherent set of strategies, policies, legislation, programmes and investments, as well as strengthening the institutional, organizational and human capacities needed. Improved governance for food security and nutrition at the highest possible political level, and its translation into engagement and participation of civil society and private sector for improved accountability in implementation and delivery;
- **a common results and accountability framework owned by all stakeholders** for aligning actions to country priorities and goals, monitoring progress and assessing the progressive realization of impact. Shared lessons learned from innovative and promising practices within and across countries which help actors make improvements when and where needed;
- **intensified support to government, non-state actors and development partners in the implementation of an improved results framework for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition.** Action focused on strategic

partnerships with respect to investment, nutrition and social protection at country level, through South-South Cooperation (SSC) and other forms of collaboration between countries, UN agencies and other development partners;

- **workable models, cost-effective mechanisms and improved capacities for delivering services** adopted by smallholder producers, vulnerable households and diverse civil society and domestic private sector actors.

KEY PARTNERS

While the AU Commission (AUC) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), Lula Institute and FAO are the founding partners of the Renewed Partnership, this Regional Initiative aims to further strengthen partnerships among public sector, civil society, farmer organizations, the private sector and development actors in order to advance implementation of country and regional action plans. South-South cooperation will provide an important mechanism for collaboration around common challenges and solutions.

WHY INVEST

There is consensus amongst African leaders and development partners that the transformation of the agricultural sector is of critical importance, as it continues to be the main sector stimulating broad-based economic growth and development. Investment in this Regional Initiative will enhance the impact of various national and regional programmes that promote agricultural development and food security, thereby contributing to the key outcomes of the CAADP Results Framework and Malabo Declaration Commitments. In particular, the Regional Initiative will strengthen the capacity of member countries to implement national hunger eradication and investment plans, for which there is high-level political commitment. By integrating the technical, financial and governance aspects of nutrition, social protection and sustainable agricultural development programmes, the Regional Initiative will contribute to Africa's socio-economic development through wealth creation, improved food and nutrition security and resilience of the most vulnerable populations.

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA - RAF (email: RAF-ADG@fao.org)



Asia and the Pacific's Zero Hunger Challenge

REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Ending hunger and malnutrition in Asia and the Pacific by 2025

WHAT

In 2013, countries in the Asia and Pacific region re-affirmed their strong commitment to end hunger and malnutrition by taking up the UN Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge. Despite strong economic growth over the past two decades, the Asia and Pacific region still represents 62 percent of the world's undernourished people and over 100 million stunted children. Income growth alone will not solve the problem of food insecurity and Member Governments increasingly recognize the need to adopt an integrated approach that focuses on the root causes of hunger and involves all stakeholders.

As a result of the Zero Hunger Challenge, a "Regional Guiding Framework for Achieving Zero Hunger in Asia and the Pacific" was developed which calls for concrete action at the country level. Given the complexity and ambition of the call, many countries require support and FAO is committed to providing assistance through this Regional Initiative.



Turning food security plans into action

In Bangladesh, since 2006, FAO has been conducting major capacity development efforts that enable the Government to develop, implement and monitor a comprehensive National Food Policy (NFP), its plan of action and a Country Investment Plan (CIP) to mobilize resources for agriculture, food security and nutrition. In addition, FAO supports a number of food-based nutrition programmes and capacity development efforts to mainstream nutrition into development activities.

The monitoring system documents the way Bangladesh actually implements its NFP and allocates more resources in support of the CIP, charting progress towards achieving its food security and nutrition (FSN) goals.

Substantial progress in Bangladesh's commitment and capacity to improve FSN has been made with specific reference to policies, programmes and legal frameworks for FSN, human and financial resources allocated to FSN, and stakeholder coordination mechanisms. Decision-making in FSN issues is now increasingly based on evidence, generated through a nation-wide information system.

HOW

The Regional Initiative emphasizes three specific and complementary areas of work identified on the basis of their critical importance for achieving the Zero Hunger Challenge, as well as of FAO's comparative advantage and experience in the region. These three areas of work include:

- formulating or operationalizing national food security and nutrition policies and investment plans



by drawing lessons from the National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme in Bangladesh;

- improving capacity for measurement and calculation of undernourishment;
- improving child nutrition and reducing stunting.

Working with Member Governments and UN country teams, FAO has already started to help countries formulate national action plans to achieve Zero Hunger.

MAIN RESULTS EXPECTED

- **national food security and nutrition policies and investment plans are implemented** and monitored in at least three countries of the region;
- **national capacities are strengthened and good practices documented**, so that programmes that have an impact on reducing child stunting are more effective and upscaled;
- **capacity of staff in the relevant government agencies are enhanced** in four countries of the region to measure, calculate and report undernourishment figures.

KEY PARTNERS

FAO supports national, and where necessary, subnational, governments through country-led processes that involve multiple stakeholders, including civil society organizations (CSOs) (such as farmer organizations), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private actors, academic institutions and development partners. FAO will work as part of the UN country team in each country. South-South Cooperation is expected to be a major source of expertise that will support the implementation of the Regional Initiative, promoting the exchange of experiences and good practice between countries.



WHY INVEST

The prevalence of hunger and malnutrition in Asia and the Pacific is not only a violation of the basic human right to food, but also imposes enormous economic costs on nations. FAO recently estimated that the global cost of malnutrition exceeds USD 3.5 trillion annually, and that the benefit/cost ratio of investing in solutions that improve nutrition can be as high as 13 to 1.

The countries in focus for this Regional Initiative are strongly committed to eradicating hunger and malnutrition and have existing policies, strategies and plans of action related to food security and nutrition in place, as well as are involved in ongoing initiatives and processes. Initiatives include the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN), Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger (REACH), Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), Feed the Future, etc. If national governments, UN agencies, foundations, NGOs, CSOs, development partners and the private sector join together to invest in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, the payoffs will be enormous in terms of both additional outputs as well as human happiness.

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC - RAP (email: RAP-ADG@fao.org)



Support to the Hunger-Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative

REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Designing and implementing multisector policies and programmes

WHAT

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the regions that has made the greatest progress in reducing hunger in the past two decades. The region has already met the Millennium Development Goal 1C target of halving the proportion of undernourished people by 2015, and is strongly committed to eradicating hunger permanently by 2025. In 2005, the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative (HFLACI) was launched as a joint commitment by countries and organizations to eradicate hunger within one generation. This Regional Initiative is driving the HFLACI forward, developing and strengthening political and governance processes towards achieving Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) objectives.

Without a doubt, political and social momentum is growing, attracting the interest of a wide range of actors. The Regional Initiative supports regional, subregional and national commitments to the eradication of hunger and the right to food at the highest political level, including the programme for the eradication of hunger and poverty of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the regional Parliamentary Front Against Hunger (as well as national parliamentary chapters) and regional integration bodies' work plans to address hunger eradication.



Strengthening the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

FAO is supporting the design and the implementation of the CELAC Latin American and Caribbean Programme for Hunger and Poverty Eradication, including school feeding, public procurement from family farming and sustainable food production, among other topics.

In Paraguay, FAO is specifically supporting the enabling policy environment for the fight against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Draft bills on Food and Nutrition Security, School Feeding and Public Procurement of family farm products will soon be presented in the Legislative Assembly. In addition, the recently approved Law on Food Security for Pregnant Mothers and Breastfeeding Infants will be the framework in which the school feeding system will be designed and strengthened.

In particular, the Regional Initiative supports countries in achieving their national FNS goals through better design and implementation of multisectoral public policies and programmes and the strengthening of related institutions, legal frameworks, information systems and resource allocation. It also seeks to improve coordination among different sectors, ensuring inclusion of different stakeholders such as civil society, parliamentarians, academia, indigenous peoples, producer and consumer organizations and the private sector.

HOW

The Regional Initiative aims to create space at regional, subregional and national levels for different stakeholders to discuss and agree on critical issues related to food security and nutrition. The Regional Initiative is an excellent platform to



promote and reinforce North-South and South-South Cooperation initiatives for the eradication of hunger. For example, Brazil, Mexico, Spain and Venezuela's cooperation agencies are already part of this Regional Initiative.

The Regional Initiative is focused on the countries which still face high rates of food insecurity and it helps create the political, social and institutional conditions that will contribute to the permanent eradication of hunger. At the same time, the Regional Initiative relies heavily on the experience of countries that have made significant progress through adequate policies and strategies, facilitating dialogue and exchange and disseminating best practices. Identifying and replicating successful national actions at the regional and subregional levels has proved an excellent way to enable countries to learn from others facing similar socio-economic conditions in the fight against hunger.

The Regional Initiative therefore works at two levels, regional and national, which are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing:

- at the regional level, it strengthens regional and subregional forums for FSN governance (CELAC and ALBA-Petrocaribe), which help drive change at the national level through, for example, executive and legislative bodies and civil society mechanisms;
- at the national level, it supports political processes identified in each country in line with public policies and programmes for FSN, and develops institutional and other capacities.

MAIN RESULTS EXPECTED

- **member countries and their development partners make explicit political commitments**, strengthen their legal frameworks and adopt governance mechanisms for FSN that are inclusive, transparent, accountable and evidence-based;
- **stronger institutional capacities:**
 - priority countries in Mesoamerica (Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras): develop stronger institutional capacities for more effective policies, legislation, programmes and strategies at the national and subnational levels in the areas of FNS, rural and territorial development and family farming;

- priority countries in South America (Bolivia and Paraguay): improve their capacities to develop policies, institutional frameworks, programmes and regulations to carry out public procurement of family farming products;

- priority Caribbean countries (Grenada and Haiti): improve their capacities to develop policies, institutional and regulatory frameworks and strengthen governance mechanisms to combat hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition;

- **monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management systems are designed and implemented** to share experiences and lessons learned.

KEY PARTNERS

Key partners include regional and subregional integration bodies, particularly CELAC; Latin American Parliamentary Front and national Parliament Fronts Against Hunger; United Nations agencies; various resource partners, such as Spain; public and private actors in priority countries and South-South Cooperation partners like ALBA-PetroCaribe, Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela.

WHY INVEST

Investing in this Regional Initiative will accelerate the implementation of the HFLACI, resulting in strengthened commitments and coordinated action. Most countries in the region, regardless of political orientation, are turning the rhetoric to action, and the parliamentary fronts against hunger are multipartisan in composition. This presents an excellent opportunity to support a wide array of governments and actors, who in spite of different ideologies and paradigms, are embracing hunger and poverty eradication as a common cause and gaining public support for their actions.

By integrating the technical, financial and governance aspects of food security, nutrition and sustainable agricultural development, the Regional Initiative will contribute to Latin America and the Caribbean's socio-economic development through wealth creation, improved FSN and resilience of the most vulnerable populations.

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Integrated Management of Agricultural Landscapes in Africa

REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN AFRICA

Supporting sustainable production intensification and value chain development

WHAT

This Regional Initiative seeks to boost agricultural production and productivity in sub-Saharan Africa, which remains significantly lower than the global average. There is an urgent need to address the production gap and enhance the adaptive capacity of Africa's agricultural landscapes, considering the rapidly growing population and changing climate. Large-scale transformation is required for more efficient and sustainable intensification and this should happen at the landscape level. Challenges include: guarding against the expansion and encroachment of agricultural land into forest and rangelands; protecting smallholders against the impacts of climate change, and improving regional trade for increased agricultural productivity, through enhancing infrastructure, technologies, business skills and creating an enabling environment.

Sub-Saharan Africa's productivity and resilience can be strengthened through promoting best practices, applying a Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) approach and by following the principles of on-farm/off-farm production and post-production processes. This will also yield decent rural employment opportunities, which are particularly important for women and youth.



A landscape approach for policy-making, planning and monitoring in the Kagera river basin

FAO has supported Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania through an integrated landscape approach to restore degraded lands, adapt to climate change, sequester carbon and use agricultural biodiversity in a sustainable way. The ultimate objective is to improve agricultural production, rural livelihoods and food security.

A participatory multisector assessment involving decision-makers in the four countries was carried out to identify land degradation challenges and the effectiveness of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices. Information gathered has enabled more effective landscape and territorial management and synergies among sectoral interventions and helped identify trade-offs that need to be addressed by all stakeholders. Typically, one trade-off involves practices that target increased agriculture production taking into account the long-term ecosystem integrity, at the expense of practices aimed at short-term gains that have ecological consequences on agriculture landscapes or inefficient use of productive resources.

HOW

The Regional Initiative will assist the seven focus countries to increase production and productivity by:

- building the capacity of smallholder farmers and producer groups in value chain processes for various commodities such as cassava, sesame, groundnuts and fisheries, to reduce post harvest losses, as well as improving access to agribusiness information; by 2020, at least

25 countries will have developed **policies and programmes** that enable 25 million rural households to successfully adopt climate-smart approaches, practices and systems.

- providing policy support to the governments to formulate and implement policies, strategies and programmes that promote rural economic diversification and generate decent rural employment, creating better opportunities for youth and women. Policy assistance will also be provided to address land tenure related bottlenecks to agriculture investment and facilitate improved access to integrated CSA approaches;
- strengthening the evidence base for best practices and new innovations for integrated agricultural landscapes to facilitate policy dialogue;
- promoting dissemination of the best practices for sustainable management and production intensification in agriculture and natural resources for widespread scaling up, including understanding the success factors for scaling up;
- strengthening strategic partnerships, for example, through South-South Cooperation.

MAIN RESULTS EXPECTED

- **improved access to resources and services for smallholders through promotion of production systems** that sustainably increase smallholder farm and agribusiness productivity and increase their resilience through improved ecosystem stability and increased income generation capacity;
- **improved country and local institutional frameworks** to sustainably manage the agricultural production systems at the landscape level;
- **reduced food losses and waste through capacity development and improved access to technologies** by value-chain stakeholders;
- **documented evidence-based best practices** for widespread scaling up in the region;
- **demonstrated viability of agricultural enterprises for livelihood support** especially for youth and women.



KEY PARTNERS

Key partnerships include the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Agriculture Climate Change Programme in Africa, the Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, COMESA, EAC, IGAD, SADC) CSA Programmes, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through their ecosystem-based approach, the CGIAR Consortium's Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Furthermore, partnerships are being forged with private sector and civil society, including farmer-based producers' organizations and development banks.

WHY INVEST

This Regional Initiative calls for an integrated landscape based governance approach, through the scaling up of best practices that are people-centred and an acceleration of information and technology transfer to build resilience of African smallholders and agro-entrepreneurs. Investment needs to be stepped up to strengthen human and institutional capacity. This would increase the role of agricultural production in the economies of African countries, contributing to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, while ensuring the sustainability of agricultural landscapes.

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Regional Rice Initiative in Asia

REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Improving the sustainability and resource-use efficiency of rice farming systems

WHAT

Asia is home to rice, and people in this region depend on rice economically, socially and environmentally. Without rice, sustainable development in Asia can hardly be achieved. Furthermore, rice plays an essential role in global food security. Rice-based farming systems and the rice economy have been experiencing significant structural changes and challenges, including the 2008 rice price crisis and environmental issues. These challenges have prompted governments across the world to come up with sustainable ways of rice farming as well as overarching rice policies and strategies. This Regional Initiative focuses on improving the sustainability of rice production, based on goods and services from rice ecosystems and landscapes.

Results on efficiency - *More with Less*

Preliminary results of the *Save and Grow* approach practiced in a number of regions in the Philippines where more than 400 farmers were trained, show an average 30 percent increase in yield and over 30 percent reduction in costs. This has led to a near 60 percent increase in net income for local farmers. In Central Java, Indonesian farmers increased their rice yields by 20 percent, though input cost savings were variable. Returns on investments increased by 57 percent, primarily due to higher farm gate prices for certified-organic rice, intended for the export market.



HOW

The Regional Rice Initiative offers member countries an array of options that are more productive, sustainable and efficient in resource use. These include: rice-fish, rice-livestock and rice-vegetables systems, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Trees Outside Forest (TOF), policy and legal frameworks to support effective ecosystem control of insect pests, preservation of rice heritage and culture supported by Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), improved canal operation techniques, and Climate-Smart Agriculture. All these approaches are integrated in the overarching *Save and Grow* paradigm advocated by FAO, i.e. producing more and better with fewer inputs, through Farmers Field Schools and thereby maximizing synergies. This Initiative also supports policy processes, especially the (re) formulation and implementation of national rice strategies or policies, building on the Regional Rice Strategy formulated by FAO through a multistakeholder consultation process.

MAIN RESULTS EXPECTED

- **innovative and sustainable farming practices applied** through a *Save and Grow* approach adopted by rice farmers and local communities in rice ecosystems and landscapes in order to sustainably produce more and better with fewer inputs, thereby increasing incomes and ultimately improving food and nutrition security;
- **knowledge and evidence based on sustainability and resource use efficiency expanded** to corroborate the effectiveness of the “Regional Rice Initiative” approach tested by local rice farming communities;
- **national rice policies or strategies (re)formulated and implemented** drawing on the vision and strategic options suggested by the “Regional Rice Strategy for Asia and the Pacific”, while contributing to regional and global policy processes such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture.

KEY PARTNERS

The Regional Rice Initiative involves an inclusive, multistakeholder approach. Apart from government ministries concerned with rice and ecosystem services, key partners and enablers include civil society organizations and academia, such as: the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI); International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF); Policy Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan; Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS); National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences of Japan; l’Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) ; Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE); Asian Institute of Technology (AIT); Oregon State University; University of California-Berkeley; Freshwater Aquaculture Center at the Central Luzon State University; Visayas State University; Kasakalikahan national IPM programme in the Philippines; and VECO International.



WHY INVEST

Rice is the single most important commodity that constitutes a core element of the livelihoods of people in Asia. Sustainable development and food security cannot be achieved unless more productive, sustainable and resource-use efficient rice farming systems are practiced in this region. The region is experiencing rapid population growth, but suitable arable land to meet rising food demand is very limited. The Regional Rice Initiative model helps produce larger quantities and better quality with fewer inputs, and therefore should be promoted and replicated not just in Asia, but also in other regions, including Africa where rice production and consumption have been steadily increasing.

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Asia and the Pacific's Blue Growth Initiative

REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Supporting sustainable aquaculture development and intensification

WHAT

In Asia, fish currently supplies about 20 percent of the protein in people's diets. Due to the increasing population and economic growth, by 2030 fish consumption in Asia is estimated to surge by 30 percent. Aquaculture is seen as the only way to meet the increasing demand due to the stagnant production from capture fisheries. This Regional Initiative contributes to the sustainable growth of aquaculture in Asia, foreseen to increase 60 percent by 2030 by supporting Member Governments to effectively address the key issues in producing more with less, while safeguarding the environment.

HOW

FAO supports national policy development and good production practices, including adaptation to climate change and variability, and improved farmer access to quality production inputs. This involves regional awareness raising, information dissemination, strategy development and capacity building.



Inclusive national fisheries policies

Both the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal are countries where fish is traditionally important in people's diet and aquaculture is a rapidly emerging sector. Despite this, the two countries have never had a national fisheries policy. Following the request from the two Governments, FAO is assisting them both in developing an inclusive national policy, supporting the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture. The draft policy for Nepal is completed and ready for endorsement by the Government. Similar work will be completed for the Lao People's Democratic Republic by 2015.

National Fisheries policies are helping foster an enabling environment by:

- defining the vision and goal for sustainable aquaculture and fisheries development;
- guiding government investment policy;
- guiding the conducive institutional arrangement;
- determining the priority areas for government support, such human capacity building, infrastructure improvement, and research and development;
- emphasizing Public-Private partnership.

MAIN RESULTS EXPECTED

- **fisheries policy supporting sustainable aquaculture development and intensification**, and a strategic plan for promoting sustainable intensification of aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific;
- **Implementation of good feeding and hatchery operation practices**;
- **aquaculture planning and management significantly improved** through adoption of selected planning and management tools, such as aquaculture zoning and traceability developed by FAO;
- **strengthened resilience of small-scale aquaculture farmers** by applying climate-smart aquaculture practices, establishing national biosecurity and animal disease control systems, improving access to quality production inputs (feed and seed) and accessing markets.

KEY PARTNERS

Main partners include the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), the Aquaculture Department of South-East Asia Fisheries Development Centre, Association of South and East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Global Environment Facility, fisheries/aquaculture authorities, national aquaculture research and extension agencies, fisheries and aquaculture related international civil organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).



WHY INVEST

In Asia aquaculture has seen an annual growth rate of 10 percent in the past three decades. This growth is largely a reflection of the spontaneous development of the sector and is dominated by small-scale farm operations, with the exception of a few countries. This Regional Initiative will focus on sustainable development of the sector, in countries that have not yet established a well structured system and funding mechanism for effective governance and the provision of services. External investment is vital to support countries launching campaigns for the sustainable intensification of aquaculture, which in turn will serve as leverage for public-private partnerships and other investment opportunities.

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC - RAP (email: RAP-ADG@fao.org)

Near East and North Africa's Water Scarcity Initiative

REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Enhancing countries' policies, governance and best practices to sustainably increase water and land productivity

WHAT

The Near East and North Africa (NENA) are naturally exposed to chronic water shortages and may be facing the most severe threat of water scarcity in history. Over the last 40 years, per capita fresh water availability in the region has decreased by two thirds and will probably halve again by 2050. Agriculture, which already uses more than 85 percent of available fresh water resources, will most likely have to absorb the bulk of this shock, with possible major consequences for food security and the rural economy. Along with demographic growth, urbanization and rising energy demands, climate change is expected to particularly amplify the water scarcity challenge.

The Water Scarcity Initiative aims to address this challenge, by building on a pilot phase through which a Regional Collaborative Strategy on Sustainable Agricultural Water Management and Food Security in the Near East and North Africa region was developed and major areas of work identified.



Water action planning in Yemen

Yemen is considered one of the most water-poor countries in the world. The imbalance between groundwater recharge and the withdrawal, mostly for agricultural use, has put the whole Sana'a water basin at serious risk of depletion. Under the Water Scarcity Initiative, FAO is collaborating with the Netherlands in the implementation of a four-year EUR 3.6 million project aimed at mitigating the excessive and unplanned water withdrawal and uses. This is achieved through the implementation of a strategic water action plan that leads to sustainable and climate-smart crop production systems. The project will significantly enhance the governance of the Sana'a water basin and strengthen the capacities of the government institutions and the water user associations in the monitoring and the sustainable management of groundwater resources.

HOW

This Regional Initiative provides support to NENA countries through:

- implementation of a *Regional Collaborative Strategy* to create a broad consensus on and ownership of the water reform agenda in the region and help countries learn from each other as well as from best practices of agriculture water management in similar contexts;
- establishment of a broad *Strategic Partnership* of regional and international institutions that is action-oriented and results-based to support the implementation of the water reform agenda in the region;
- development of evidence-based agriculture water policies and strategic planning of water resources, through the use of advanced tools

such as water accounting, food-supply cost-curve, gap-analysis and agricultural water productivity monitoring;

- adoption of modern technology and institutional solutions to increase the efficiency and productivity of water use in agriculture;
- implementation of governance reform and incentive frameworks that effectively repositions farmers at the centre of the agenda for sustainable management of land and water resources;
- engagement of the private sector in the investments, governance and practices that save water along the food value-chain.

MAIN RESULTS EXPECTED

- increased agricultural water management, efficiency and productivity of water use;
- improved agriculture water policy and governance for sustainable management of water resources;
- strengthened regional collaboration and partnerships in water management;
- enhanced food security in the countries of the NENA region.

KEY PARTNERS

Key partners include the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD); Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD); Arab Water Council (AWC); Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE); Desert Research Center (DRC); Daugherty Water for Food Institute (DWFI); German Cooperation Agency (GIZ); International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agricultural Studies (CIHEAM); International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA); International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA); International Water Management Institute (IWMI); League of Arab States (LAS); National Water Research Center (NWRC-Egypt); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA); World Bank (WB); and the World Food Programme (WFP).



WHY INVEST

The sustainable development of the NENA countries is at serious risk if significant improvements in agriculture water strategies, policies, governance and technologies are not made.

Investing in this Regional Initiative will lead to the adoption of evidence-based water policies and improved strategic planning and governance of water resources in the region. Increased investment will also help strengthen collaboration between countries and with international partners in collectively addressing the challenge of water scarcity, closely monitoring, and ultimately safeguarding regional development.

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA - RNE (email: RNE-ADG@fao.org)

Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms in Europe and Central Asia

REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Improving rural livelihoods and reducing poverty

WHAT

Smallholder and family farming has come to dominate agriculture in the lower and middle-income countries of Europe and Central Asia as a result of the land reforms implemented in the 1990s. Food security in the region is under threat as many of the small farm units are presently not economically viable. A substantial share of the rural population is vulnerable and subject to poverty because of the poor performance of smallholder farming. The Regional Initiative is focused on enabling smallholder farmers to achieve higher levels of productivity and income through sustainable intensification of production, better organization, access to adequate services and integration into agrifood value chains.

HOW

The Regional Initiative focuses on scaling up existing good practices in the context of broader support to smallholders and rural development, including by providing support for the:

- **sustainable management of agricultural land and water resources**, for instance, FAO is currently working to promote aquaculture and fisheries in Tajikistan and in Armenia for alternative use of water resources;
- **sustainable intensification of smallholder production**, for example, by supporting the rehabilitation of seed production systems in Georgia, and organizing expert consultations on diseases, pests and weed monitoring in support of Integrated Pest Management practices for smallholders;
- **upgrading of technical and entrepreneurial skills of smallholder farmers and rural workers, especially for women and youth**, for instance, in Kyrgyzstan, rural women's entrepreneurial skills training programmes and Farmers Field Schools are being developed to promote modern crop management techniques;

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Improving land ownership

Owning land in rural areas can be a key first step out of poverty, as land fragmentation can threaten the livelihoods of poor rural farmers. FAO is working in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to support the implementation of a national strategy for land consolidation. This strategy ensures that land tenure arrangements are strengthened to support small-scale family farmers.



- **improving the quality of and access to rural services**, for instance, tailoring extension services to better meet the demands of smallholder farmers (women and youth, in particular) in Tajikistan and enhancing access to credits for smallholder and family farms in Georgia.

LEVERAGING INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

The Regional Initiative will strengthen other regional and global initiatives such as:

- the rural development component of the European Union's Eastern Neighbourhood Policy Rural Development Initiative (ENPARD);
- the United Nations International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) in 2014 and the activities associated with the IYFF;
- the "Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security" (VGGT).



MAIN RESULTS EXPECTED

Main results expected include:

- **dissemination of best practices** that increase and improve the provision of goods and services in the agricultural sector in a sustainable manner;
- **strengthened governance, policies, laws, management frameworks and institutions** to support producers and resource managers;
- **enhanced and equitable access by smallholders** to productive resources, services, organizations and markets;
- **development of inclusive and efficient agribusinesses and agrifood chains.**

KEY PARTNERS

Partnership and cooperation with different institutions in the European region are an important element of the Regional Initiative. Key partners include the European Union; the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group for South Eastern Europe (SWG); LANDNET, an informal network dealing with land tenure issues; the UN Joint Programme for Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE) of FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Women and the World Food Programme (WFP).

WHY INVEST

Food insecurity and rural poverty continue to affect tens of millions of people in the region, with some countries like Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, particularly prone to set-backs. FAO's comparative advantage and expertise in analysis and policy support across agriculture and rural development means that the Organization is well-placed to support member countries and partners in tackling these challenges via the aforementioned pro-poor approaches.

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA - REU (email: REU-ADG-RR@fao.org)



Family Farming and Rural Territorial Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Fighting rural poverty and improving food security and nutrition

WHAT

Although important progress has been made in reducing poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean in recent decades, almost one third of the rural population still lives in extreme poverty and is at high risk of food insecurity and malnutrition. Most rural poor are smallholder family farmers and improving their livelihoods will help lift them out of poverty. The Regional Initiative aims to reduce rural poverty and enhance food security and nutrition through rural territorial development, supporting member countries to create synergies between agriculture and other social and rural development sectors. This approach takes into account the needs and specificities of the territory and aims to create an enabling environment for family farming while sustainably fostering rural livelihoods.

HOW

Working with governments, national stakeholders and other partners, FAO:

- facilitates regional policy dialogues to share knowledge and experiences in improving family farming and rural territorial development;
- provides support to design social protection and decent employment programmes that promote food security, agricultural production and rural diversification;
- connects family farming to local and international food value chains, as well as to public food purchase programmes (such as for school feeding programmes);
- improves family farmers' access to productive resources, services and technologies;
- strengthens family farmer producer organizations at the local level;
- supports policies and strategies to create new opportunities for women, youth and indigenous people in rural areas;

Strengthening the peasant economy in Guatemala

FAO is supporting the formulation of the National Policy for Integrated Rural Development in Guatemala. This involves the preparation and implementation of national and territorial plans to activate and adopt the policy, including the Programme of Family Farming to Strengthen the Peasant Economy. Linkages between the programme and social protection are being established. In addition, FAO will support the design of a programme on decent youth employment with a gender focus.



- increases family farmers' resilience by improving access to rural services, credits, insurance and social protection.

MAIN RESULTS EXPECTED

- **enhanced capacities of government institutions and producer organizations** to design and implement family farming and rural territorial development policies;
- **improved access for family farmers to natural resources**, productive resources and services, with particular attention to collective territorial rights of indigenous peoples;
- **strengthened agrifood value chains to increase market access**, decent employment and income potential of family farmers;
- **strengthened and aligned social protection systems with agriculture and rural development policies**, fostering initiatives that aim at empowering female farmers socially and economically;
- **improved resilience of rural communities through better adaptation and improved technologies.**

KEY PARTNERS

At the regional level, these include the Latin America and Caribbean Community of States (CELAC) and different subregional organizations to facilitate policy dialogue and political commitment: the Cooperation agencies of Brazil and Mexico and the Specialized Meeting on Family Farming (REAF) of MERCOSUR for South-South Cooperation. At the national level, key partners include governments, civil society organizations, and private sector organizations.



WHY INVEST

Inequalities in global food markets, coupled with underinvestment in the agricultural sector, have alarmingly contributed to the decline of family farming as a means for income generation and growth. Society as a whole has undervalued the potential of family farming to produce quality goods and services, and the contribution it makes to economic, environmental and social sustainability. FAO supports member countries and partners in their efforts to reduce rural poverty through the technical advice and policy support aforementioned, focused on strengthening family farming, and in particular creating opportunities for women and youth. FAO's expertise and convening power can be the catalyst for effective change.

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN - RLC (email: RLC-ADG@fao.org)

Small-scale Agriculture for Inclusive Development in the Near East and North Africa

REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Supporting countries to reduce rural poverty by addressing challenges to small-scale agriculture

WHAT

This Regional Initiative provides a cohesive framework to better support countries in the Near East and North Africa in their efforts to promote sustainable small-scale agriculture. It aims to make a significant difference to the reduction of rural poverty by combining efforts focused on farm and off-farm employment generation with interventions designed to strengthen the organization and production capacity of smallholder farmers and to improve the rural poor's access to productive resources, markets and services. Rural women and youth often face the largest challenges and addressing their needs is a priority of this Regional Initiative.

HOW

Working with member countries and partners, FAO:

- supports governments, producer organizations and cooperatives, and rural institutions with capacity development tools to improve their governance structure, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and gender and social equity;



Empowering producer organizations in Morocco and Tunisia

FAO is implementing an ambitious project to support producer organizations in Morocco and Tunisia. The project has conducted a careful mapping and a strategic analysis of producer organizations in the two countries. The project helps strengthen capacities of members of producer organizations following a producers-to-producers approach. The approach has proven effective in substantially improving technical, managerial and negotiation skills. The project puts emphasis on facilitating greater participation of youth and women and on the active role producer organizations can play in contributing to the creation of decent work in rural areas.

- provides technical expertise and advice to identify opportunities to increase productivity, create decent employment opportunities and enhance income-generation for poor rural households through better access to appropriate technologies, knowledge, inputs and markets;
- provides policy support and advice to enhance government capacities to formulate and implement policies, strategies and programmes that promote rural economic diversification and generate decent rural employment, creating better opportunities for youth and women;
- advises on making financial services accessible and affordable for small-scale producers in agriculture and along agricultural value chains;
- assists in the development of value chains and market linkages;
- promotes methods and technologies for producers in degraded natural environments, who are vulnerable to shocks.

MAIN RESULTS EXPECTED

Through these activities, FAO expects to contribute to **increased productivity, quality, value addition, social sustainability and viability of small-scale agriculture**. It supports local stakeholders to drive towards the desired change by:

- **enhancing the capacity of governments to diagnose critical constraints faced by smallholders**, to better tailor, prioritize and target interventions and investments in favour of small-scale agriculture;
- **empowering stakeholders engaged in small-scale activities in agriculture, forestry and fisheries**, including strengthening producer organizations;
- **enhancing skills of rural workers, especially women and youth**, to seize new employment opportunities generated through employment diversification strategies.

KEY PARTNERS

FAO's key partners in the region include l'Union Maghrébine et Nord Africaine des Agriculteurs (UMNAGRI), a regional platform covering Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, the Sudan and Tunisia; the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Area (ICARDA); the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), specifically the Support to Farmer Organizations of Africa Programme (SFOAP); and the Centre international de hautes études agronomiques méditerranéennes (CIHEAM).



WHY INVEST

Investing in increasing production on smallholder farms, developing value chains and strengthening linkages to markets has been recognized as a powerful pathway to reduce rural poverty. In the Near East and North Africa region, huge inequalities persist between rural and urban areas and between smallholder and large agricultural producers.

Investing in this Regional Initiative will contribute to the adoption of pro-smallholder policies and institutions that reduce rural poverty. It will improve the environment and conditions of family farming in the region and have direct impact on smallholders' organizations, productivity and overall working conditions. It will contribute to youth and women empowerment and facilitate their access to decent employment.

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA - RNE (email: RNE-ADG@fao.org)

Value Chains for Food Security and Nutrition in the Pacific Islands

REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Improving the capacity of local food producers and related businesses to supply more food to domestic and tourist markets to meet demands for a balanced and nutritious diet

WHAT

The declining export competitiveness of farmers and fishers in the Pacific Islands, coupled with increased dietary dependence on imported food, has led public and private sector stakeholders in the Pacific to prioritize improving the capacity of their agricultural sectors to meet their domestic food needs. As a result, there is an urgent need for public and private sector cooperation in order to facilitate the investment in greater productivity and value chain efficiency required to deliver more local food of high nutritional value to domestic markets, including growing tourist markets. There is also a critical need for: i) strategic intervention from the public sector to implement policies that stimulate private sector growth; and ii) increased investment to build the competitiveness of domestic agricultural production.

HOW

The Regional Initiative will be implemented through three major action areas:

- building the evidence base for policy-makers;
- strengthening the regional enabling environment; and
- national level actions, focusing on the following countries: Cook Islands, Fiji and Samoa. Special attention will be given to partnerships in each area.

MAIN RESULTS EXPECTED

- **improved planning and implementation** of data collection, analyses, application and dissemination;
- **new and revised international standards** for food safety and quality and plant health are formulated and agreed by countries;
- **improved public sector capacity** to design and implement better policies and regulatory frameworks, provide public services related to plant and animal health, food safety and quality and provide public goods that enhance inclusiveness and efficiency in agrifood chains;

Realizing opportunities for locally-produced food on domestic and tourist markets in the Cook Islands

A new evidence-based policy plan developed by FAO and the Government of the Cook Islands is unlocking the potential of the Cook Islands' agriculture sector. As part of the plan, reorienting public services to support the production of fruit and horticultural products for domestic markets, including tourism is a key step for government. In parallel, a shift to off-season farming systems is necessary to supply these markets. Provision of a package of low-interest financial and technical services, is essential in restoring farmers' competitiveness. In addition, improved coordination of taxations and tariff policy is necessary for creating an enabling environment for agriculture sector growth and improved nutrition. This process should be overseen by a cross-departmental Food Policy Council. FAO is working to help the Cook Islands implement these recommendations.



- **improved public-private partnership and targeted investments** for agribusiness and market development;
- **increased technical and managerial capacities** to support and promote inclusive, efficient and sustainable agrifood value chains.

KEY PARTNERS

The principal technical partner is the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC), with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) as principal partner for advocacy across the region. At the national level, governments remain the primary partners; however, the Regional Initiative will seek to increase interactions with private sector organizations. Existing linkages to regional farmer organizations will continue to be utilized.

WHY INVEST

A central thrust of realizing the economic potential for agriculture in the Pacific Islands must include the opportunity for farmers to better serve domestic markets. Furthermore, the growth of tourism in many countries is an important part of domestic markets. Closer examination of the economic linkages between agriculture and tourism reveals three headline messages:

- Across the Pacific, agriculture remains an economically important sector. Agriculture continues to contribute an average of 12 percent of GDP and accounts for almost 35 percent of labour force participation.
- There is a major problem of food supply. The agriculture sector annual growth rates have been below expectations, averaging less than one percent over much of the last decade as a result of low productivity growth and poor connectivity with major domestic and export markets. This has created significant problems for the rural economy and many rural communities, as the current rate of growth in the agriculture sector is unable to meet the aspirations of the rural population and this contributes to urban drift. It also means that countries are importing more food.
- Investment is needed to support the adoption of new production technologies, which can increase year-round food supplies as tourist visits are highest in the drier off-season. In addition,



investment is needed from the private sector in post-harvest cool storage and, in some cases, in processing and packaging facilities.

In summary, appropriate investments can link farmers in rural communities to domestic markets which can reduce food import bills, increase rural family incomes, and increase the availability of fruits and vegetables in local markets.

To ensure that a response to new market challenges also benefits small producers and contributes to the reduction of food price volatility, as well as the food import bills of Pacific Island countries, a multilevel and holistic market-oriented approach should be applied. Targeted investments to increase the capacity of policy-makers, support services and producers will lead to a transformation of traditional agriculture systems towards a dynamic, commercially oriented sector and to economic growth. The identification of new domestic, regional and international markets, improvements in productivity and efficiency to raise volumes of supply, and the understanding of and compliance with market access requirements will contribute to more equitable growth. The FAO multidisciplinary team in the Pacific subregion, supported by regional based officers and headquarters technical divisions, is well placed to coordinate this response.

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC - RAP (email: RAP-ADG@fao.org)

Agrifood Trade and Regional Integration in Europe and Central Asia

REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Strengthening capacities to deal effectively with the challenges posed by greater trade integration

WHAT

Agricultural systems in Europe and Central Asia are still deeply affected by the process of political and economic transition. This has coincided with globalization and deepening trade integration both within the region and worldwide and there is a need to strengthen national and regional capacities to deal effectively with the challenges posed. With greater participation in global agricultural trade, the region plays an increasingly important role as a supplier of agricultural commodities to international markets.



Capitalizing on the FAO–UNITAR e-Learning course on World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements

A total of 96 representatives from academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the public and private sectors from 12 Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, participated in the five-week FAO–United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) e-Learning course on “WTO accession and its implications for the agricultural sector in CIS countries”. “Graduates” of the online course gained a better understanding of WTO principles and rules regulating global agricultural trade, and the accession commitments in agriculture assumed by new WTO Member States (among the CIS countries Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine).

One participant noted: “There is a need to train both government officials and the private sector on the new rules of the game for international trade. At the moment there are few trainers who fully understand the norms and rules of the WTO. When entrepreneurs have questions, often they have nowhere to turn for qualified help”.

The course will be re-run following a high level of demand.

HOW

This Regional Initiative develops better evidence on trade implications, improves the capacity of the countries to use this evidence, facilitates neutral forums and dialogues on trade agreements and supports the design and implementation of appropriate policy at the country level. The main focus components are:

- normative technical guidelines for trade;
- trade agreements;
- wheat trade for food security.

MAIN RESULTS EXPECTED

- **national institutions have increased capacities** to engage in the formulation and implementation of trade and trade-related agreements;
- **regulatory frameworks and policies are aligned with international standards** such as food quality standards that allow enhanced participation in trade;
- **the benefits of trade are enhanced** through improved public services and appropriate accompanying measures.

KEY PARTNERS

Key partners include both national institutions as well as international organizations such as the European Commission, Eurasian Economic Commission or the World Trade Organization (WTO). South-South Cooperation is foreseen between China and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region through experience-sharing on the implications of trade agreements and adjustments to agricultural support policies.



WHY INVEST

Greater participation in trade implies significant challenges for the agricultural sector, affecting both agro-industry and the primary sector. Critical to meeting these challenges is the need to invest in strengthening government capacities to understand the implications of greater integration. In addition, investment is required to ensure that trade agreements facilitate trade policies and regulations consistent with the national growth and development strategies, and to introduce accompanying measures and public services to help maximize the benefits of trade expansion and minimize the negative effects.

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA - REU (email: REU-ADG-RR@fao.org)

Improving Food Systems in the Caribbean

REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Agricultural and food value chain development

WHAT

This Regional Initiative addresses two fundamental problems faced by countries across the Caribbean region: first, limited food and feed crop value chain development, and second, low utilization of domestic agricultural products. Both have resulted in a high food import bill, which in 2013 was estimated at USD 4.75 billion. Constraints that undermine participation, productivity, investment, value addition, competitiveness and trade have to be addressed. In addition, attention must be given to issues related to quality, standards, governance and the promotion of local food and feed to increase market entry.



Investing in value chains

Investing in new agricultural value chains to supplement the important development roles played by sugar and bananas during past decades is critical to economic growth, employment, incomes, food security and sustainable development in Caribbean states. Production and exports of sugar and bananas have declined and no longer supply the foreign exchange needed to purchase imports. Governments in the region, in consultation with the private sector, regional and international agencies, have been able to reach consensus on a few commodity value chains to fill this vacuum. This requires creating an enabling environment for investment, promoting the use of technologies that increase productivity and enhance competitiveness, and improving standards and distribution systems to deliver regular supplies of quality and safe products to processors and consumers. Value chains in focus include cassava, small ruminants, aquaculture and vegetables.

HOW

Together with member countries and regional partners, FAO's work covers the following areas:

- public policy, including trade and cross-border investment agreements and policies, institutional and organizational development that creates an enabling environment for investment, production and trade;
- technology, innovation and best practices to increase productivity at all levels of the value chain;
- promotion of the utilization of local products at intermediate and final consumer levels;
- facilitation of the functioning of national markets and increasing domestic, regional and extraregional trade.

MAIN RESULTS EXPECTED

- **improved capacities to develop value chains for selected agricultural commodities**, including trade facilitation and the inclusion and utilization of national and regional products;
- **best practices adopted by stakeholders that enhance the value chain**;
- **improved food quality and safety systems**;
- **increased production and productivity of selected commodities** to contribute to food and nutrition security;
- **strengthened capacities to improve policy and institutional incentives and services** for competitiveness and sustainability;
- **Improved access to and utilization of quality food and better nutrition.**

KEY PARTNERS

FAO is working in close partnership with member countries as well as Caribbean agricultural agencies, including the Caribbean Community Secretariat (policy), Interamerican Institute for Cooperation of Agriculture (markets), Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) (technology), Caribbean AgriBusiness Association (CABA) (industry), Caribbean Farmers Network (CAFAN) (producer organizations) and the University of the West Indies (innovation) and with the private sector (bakeries, feed companies, breweries). FAO leads the regional cassava working group, which includes the agencies mentioned above. FAO and CARDI will jointly lead a similarly constituted regional level small ruminant working group. South-South Cooperation will be mobilized from countries in the region.



WHY INVEST

Over the past two years, the Highest Level Forums of Heads and Ministers of Governments identified the agricultural and food sector as one of the main pillars of economic and social transformation and have repeatedly called for the development of new value chains to replace sugar and bananas. Two value chains, based on cassava and small ruminants, have been prioritized by governments and regional agricultural agencies for immediate attention. Greater investment is needed to enable small farmers access to formal markets and increase their capacity to compete in larger volume markets, thereby improving their income and contribution to poverty alleviation and food security.

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN - RLC (email: RLC-ADG@fao.org)

Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands

REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN AFRICA

*Reducing vulnerability to shocks affecting food and nutrition security
and developing capacities to prevent these threats*

WHAT

People who rely on agriculture for their livelihoods are often the worst affected when a crisis or a disaster strikes, potentially putting their food and nutrition security at serious risk. In Africa, agriculture supports the livelihoods of over 800 million people (80 percent of the population), providing employment for around 60 percent of the economically active population and 70 percent of the poorest (some 270 million people). Recurrent climatic shocks, conflicts, socio-economic crises and high impact/transboundary plant pests and animal diseases profoundly impact the vulnerability of the poorest smallholder farming, agropastoralist and pastoralist households, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas (the drylands) of sub-Saharan Africa. This Regional Initiative seeks to add value and foster strategies, interventions and innovations aimed at strengthening the resilience to threats and crises of vulnerable and poor people in these drylands. It builds on strong collaboration and coordination with initiatives pursuing the same goals of hunger and poverty eradication in a context of increasingly threatening crises and disasters. Gender is at the heart of this Regional Initiative by ensuring that resilience policies and strategies at regional, national and local levels promote equal access to and control over resources and incomes. These also address the needs of different age groups.



Knowledge Share Fair promotes good-practice and strengthens partnerships in Africa for resilience

A three-day knowledge Share Fair held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, promoted good practices in resilience and reinforced multistakeholder partnerships. The Share Fair offered a space for the exchange of experiences and how to best implement good practices at the national and regional levels between countries in the Sahel, West Africa, and East Africa. The fair was organised around five themes:

- sustainable natural resource management and climate change;
- livestock, with particular focus on pastoralism;
- prevention and mitigation of food and nutrition insecurity;
- management of risks, threats and crises;
- social protection.

For each theme, good practices were identified, presented and discussed during workshops and panel sessions. The Share Fair also strengthened partnerships between regional African bodies (CILSS and IGAD) and FAO. CILSS and IGAD signed a protocol to strengthen South-South Cooperation to fight food and nutrition insecurity within their respective regions. CILSS and FAO signed two Technical Cooperation projects on capacity strengthening for prevention and management of food security crises in the Sahel and street food safety.

Key recommendations resulting from the Share Fair included: organizing similar events in the Sahel/West Africa and including other subregions of Africa; support to pastoralism policy formulation; increased investment for social protection and support to local communities in scaling up good practices for better natural resources management.

HOW

- **strengthening institutional capacity** for developing and implementing policies on risk prevention/reduction and resilience including focus on Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other regional bodies; and knowledge exchange across subregions and between countries;
- **risk monitoring or information for action:** supporting partners in vulnerability mapping and analysis through already existing tools such as Integrated Phase Classification (IPC), resilience analysis and measurement as well as improving and extending early warning systems;
- **community level vulnerability reduction and resilience building**, in particular interventions articulated around three main root causes:
 - technical: diversification of rural livelihoods, climate-smart agriculture, natural resource management, sustainable production intensification, etc.;
 - financial: village saving and loans schemes, community contingency funds, etc.;
 - social: social protection, nutrition, access to natural resources, community empowerment, etc.
- **preparing to respond to shocks and crises** through supporting contingency measures (physical and financial); as well as supporting emergency response and coordination measures.

MAIN EXPECTED RESULTS

- **strategies and plans for risk reduction and crisis management** of the targeted countries and regions improved and institutionalized;
- **improved quality and harmonization of information and analysis on resilience and on threats** to agriculture, food and nutrition security to enable more timely and more relevant decisions;
- **rural communities of targeted countries benefit from integrated interventions** designed to address root causes of vulnerabilities building their technical, financial and social capacity to face drought and other shocks;
- **preparedness and response capacities developed** and made more relevant and effective for agriculture-food-nutrition related sectors.

KEY PARTNERS

Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other regional bodies such as Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (West Africa), Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) (West Africa), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) (Horn of Africa), Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC-ECCAS), Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) (Central Africa), Southern African Development Community (SADC) (Southern Africa), Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) (Sahel), Supporting Horn of Africa Resilience (SHARE) initiatives; international partners such as the European Union, the United States of America, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund, the World Bank, research institutions, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Non-State Actors and UN Specialized Agencies (e.g. the World Food Programme [WFP], the United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF]).

WHY INVEST

This Regional Initiative aims to strengthen the resilience of African livelihoods to threats and crises. It builds on a wealth of experience accumulated over the past ten years and on current expertise and programmes across the agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, nutrition and natural resources sectors. The Regional Initiative provides opportunities for exchange of knowledge and innovations and nurtures existing effective resilience partnerships. By addressing the challenges of anticipating and preventing the impacts of severe droughts, other climate change extreme events, hazards and/or crises, it contributes to participatory sustainable development. It also aims to bridge the gap between food and nutrition security and risk policy decisions. This should ultimately lead to improving and safeguarding livelihoods for the most vulnerable agriculture dependent people, particularly in fragile arid and semi-arid ecosystems.

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Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition in the Near East and North Africa

REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Strengthening institutions, markets and production systems to cope with crises and threats

WHAT

Countries in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region are facing enormous challenges to achieve their goals of eradicating hunger and malnutrition while managing and using their natural resources in an environmentally sustainable manner. The persistence of high population growth rates, averaging over 2.2 percent for the whole region, and growing urbanization are putting heavy pressure on the demand for food. At the same time, the limited and fragile natural resource base and declining productivity constitute major constraints to the supply of food, making the region highly dependent on imports for basic food needs and highly vulnerable to hikes and volatility in international food prices and to other externalities. Furthermore, large segments of the population in many countries in the region live below or close to the poverty line.



Dealing with food chain risks in a conflict zone

Transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and food chain risks are major threats to people's livelihoods, and to food security and nutrition in the region. Part of FAO's response to the impact of the conflict in Syria on neighbouring countries includes a USD 5.6 million United Kingdom-funded project in Lebanon: *"Emergency vaccination and targeted feeding of livestock grazing in areas along the Syria-Lebanon border"*. FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon have jointly conducted a national mass livestock vaccination campaign against three major TADs and provided quality feed to increase livestock production. The aim is to raise incomes of poor smallholders, while protecting their livelihood assets. The implementation of Farmers Field Schools (FFS) facilitates learning and exchange of best practices and innovations, further enhancing farmers' knowledge and productivity, and reinforcing their resilience to future shocks. Participatory and interactive learning approaches are empowering farmers to share practice in focus groups with common interests. The target groups are members of small-scale dairy cooperatives, receiving training on controlling mastitis in dairy cows (teat dipping, vaccination, improved hygiene, management, etc.) and diarrhea in new-born calves (colostrum, vaccination, farm management, etc.). FFS are expanding through targeting 25 poultry participatory groups, each composed of 20 participants from vulnerable families. After three months of participatory training, each receives a poultry unit of 50 layers, reaching 2 500 beneficiaries. Each FFS member then commits to coaching two extra vulnerable farmers, who will each receive 15 hens, to the benefit of 7 500 beneficiaries.



HOW

The Regional Initiative features five focus areas of work:

- policy and institutional frameworks for Food Security and Nutrition (FSN);
- food security information and knowledge exchange systems;
- food supply chains, with specific attention to reducing food losses and waste;
- access of households to safe, nutritious and diversified food; and
- resilience of households, communities and agro-eco systems to human-induced and natural shocks.

It builds on existing initiatives and programmes on FSN in the region, including the Arab Emergency Food Security Programme of the Arab League, the Regional Initiative on “Arab Agricultural Investment in Sudan for Bridging the Food Gap and Achieving Arab Food Security” and the work of the Thematic Group on Food Security of the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM). It supports policy setting bodies such as the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League and the regional multistakeholder forum on food security and nutrition, to enhance their contributions to increase resilience of livelihoods to the multiple threats and crises the region is prone to. It also builds on and supports ongoing policy processes and programmes at country and subregional levels, in particular, on food security and nutrition, bringing resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRR/M) planning and policy formulation to the fore.

MAIN RESULTS EXPECTED

- **strengthened capacities for developing coherent risk-informed policy frameworks and investment programmes** for sustainable food security and nutrition at the national and regional levels;
- **evidence-based food security information systems and knowledge exchange** for decision-making processes;
- **efficient and sustainable food systems**, with specific attention to reducing food losses and

waste and sustainable access of households to safe, nutritious and diversified food;

- **improved resilience of households and communities and agro-eco systems** to anticipate, absorb and recover from the negative impacts of human-induced and natural shocks.

KEY PARTNERS

This Regional Initiative engages with key partners at regional level: League of Arab States (LAS), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), World Food Programme (WFP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), World Bank (WB), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), etc. At country level, the Regional Initiative builds on and further develops partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector and academia.

WHY INVEST

The Near East and North Africa countries are highly dependent on food imports and are prone to numerous other vulnerabilities and shocks that pose serious challenges to their efforts to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. It is estimated that 79 million (11 percent of the total population) in the region are chronically undernourished and about 31 percent of the children are stunted. Access to food has long been considered as a major driver of instability in the region.

Investment is required to enhance food security information systems, strengthen food security and risk governance and institutions, and build the resilience of farming communities and families. This will contribute to improving the food security and nutrition status of the poor and most vulnerable people in society, as well as aid social cohesion, stability and the overall resilience of countries in this region.

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