



Saint Kitts and Nevis and FAO

Building sustainable agricultural systems and food and nutrition security

The twin-island federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis has been a member of FAO since 1983. Since 2003, technical assistance has focused on the development of non-sugar agricultural activities, with an emphasis on the creation of sustainable livelihoods and food production. Interventions range from national policy support to community projects for improving food security and nutrition. As a small island developing state (SIDS), disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change are important areas of cooperation with FAO.

Post-sugar industry rehabilitation and diversification

Following the closure of the country's 300 year-old sugar industry in 2005, FAO and the Government have been cooperating closely to build sustainable livelihoods through agricultural diversification. FAO assistance has focused on support to the post-sugar industry diversification programme and smallholder agricultural production, including the supply of inputs for establishing crop and livestock enterprises as well as value addition and marketing activities. It has also implemented food and nutrition security interventions, developing and promoting Food-Based Dietary Guidelines, together with school garden initiatives.

Matching FAO's expertise to Saint Kitts and Nevis' development priorities

FAO assistance in Saint Kitts and Nevis is currently shaped by the 2016-2019 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF), which focuses on the three areas below, built on the successes of the 2012-2015 CPF:

- **Food and Food and Feed Systems**, improving food systems and value chain development, linking producers to processors and markets, strengthening groups and cooperatives with an aim at fostering the development of viable livelihoods and competitive agri-business will be supported under this priority area.
- **Food and Nutrition Security**, supporting implementation of the FNS policy in the fight against hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition, obesity and overweight. Emphasis will also be placed on supporting government's social protection programmes aimed at the vulnerable towards the expansion of backyard gardening, urban and peri-urban agriculture. Policy advice, capacity development and advocacy will be provided for improving social protection systems to foster sustainable and equitable rural development, poverty reduction, and food security and nutrition.
- **Climate Change and resilience**, focusing on the development of a water policy which speaks to areas of sustainable management and water harvesting and promoting water conservation and harvesting techniques while strengthening national capacity for uptake of these techniques as well as supporting sustainable use, management and conservation of land for agriculture.

Jointly developed with the Government and other development partners, the CPF is FAO's contribution to the UN Development Assistance Framework (2012-2016) for Barbados and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), as well as to the One UN initiative.

New CPF formulation

Consultation and drafting are ongoing for the CPF 2016-2019.



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Boosting employment through agricultural value chain development

Saint Kitts and Nevis has strong potential for developing commercial value chains in a number of agricultural subsectors as a means of generating employment, increasing local food production and contributing to the population's nutritional status, as well as supplying some of the tourist demand for fresh fruits and vegetables. The breadnut and breadfruit value chain, for instance, has been the focus of a successful, multipurpose project implemented by FAO.

An initial component of the project was the establishment of a Value Chain Coordination Committee to guide project activities. Led by a farmer from Saint Kitts and an agro-processor from Nevis, the Committee represents all key stakeholder groups, including farmers, processors, food technologists, the Agriculture Youth Forum and the Hotel and Tourism Association as well as the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Health Promotion Unit. Committee members received capacity building support in value chain analysis, business model approaches, management and facilitation and moderation.



Training has formed a central part of project activities, which have facilitated the exchange of information on the entire value chain for these two tree crops, including business and trade issues, employment opportunities and health and nutrition. Farmers, agronomists and extension personnel have been trained and a manual produced on improved tree and orchard management, while the plant propagation unit of the Department of Agriculture has begun producing plantlets for orchard establishment and providing information on orchard management.

Food processing and safety issues, product development and preparation processes and recipes were the subject of a highly appreciated workshop, which covered breadfruit blanching and drying; roasting and pickling; and more elaborate preparations such as chocolate-coated chips and a breadfruit-and-cucumber drink.

Project: Commercialization of Breadfruit and Breadnut Value Chain for Improved Employment and Food Security in Saint Kitts and Nevis. Funded by FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme.

Developing fisheries to achieve sustainable food security

The drive towards agricultural diversification has led to a greater focus on the development of fisheries as a contributor to national food security and poverty alleviation. Faced with diminishing fish stocks, a widening gap between national food production and consumption and a growing food import bill, the immediate aim is to increase and diversify fish production while achieving sustainable resource management and contributing to export earnings. The Government and FAO have been partnering to develop the twin-island state's largely artisanal fisheries sector – accounting for 14 percent of the country's workforce – into a modern industry based on improved technologies and the sustainable use of marine resources.

“Improving agricultural and food systems is essential for a world with both healthier people and healthier ecosystems.”

José Graziano da Silva
FAO Director-General

Strengthened organizations enable fisheries co-management

A recent FAO project has strengthened the country's fisheries cooperatives, leading to the adoption of a new legislative agenda and laying a solid basis for a co-management and a sustainable, ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF). As a result of training in participatory management, fishermen and other resource users within the sector are now in a stronger position to engage in information sharing and joint decision-making with the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Cooperatives and with the islands' respective fisheries departments. Resource users are therefore better able to contribute to EAF as well as the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, for example taking a more active role in combating illegal fishing.

Stronger local fisheries cooperatives and organizations are enabling the Ministry and fisheries departments to improve infrastructure and services. In addition, the sector is assuming a more commercial approach to fisheries operations and consumer demand is better accomplished in terms of food safety and quality.

Project: Strengthening Fisherfolk Organizations in Saint Kitts and Nevis. Funded under FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).

Following on the heels of this project, at the Government's request FAO is to implement a new TCP project: “Strengthening Fisheries Legislation in Saint Kitts and Nevis”. With a focus on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, the intervention will produce a draft Fisheries Act and Regulations and a High Seas Fisheries Act and Regulations.