



## IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY, SUSTAINABILITY AND LIVELIHOODS THROUGH THE ONE COUNTRY ONE PRIORITY PRODUCT INITIATIVE

FAO's One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) Initiative was launched in September 2021 with the aim to support more sustainable agrifood value chains of Special Agricultural Products (SAPs), through optimizing production, processing, storage and marketing, minimizing environmental and social impacts, maximizing benefits for farmers and food chain actors, while diversifying diets for better food security and nutrition.

This project, "Innovative Approaches for Better Plant Production" (FMM/GLO/177/MUL), is the first global project for the implementation of OCOP, funded through the FAO Flexible Voluntary Contribution (FVC) in Bangladesh, Egypt, Malawi, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uzbekistan. These five countries were identified as demonstration project countries to promote their value chains of jackfruit, date palm, banana, cocoa and sweet cherry, respectively.

The project assisted participating countries in initiating the implementation of OCOP in the field through the adoption and promotion of innovative approaches for better crop production and marketing of SAPs.

Project countries were supported in their efforts to mainstream the thematic areas under OCOP (sustainable production, storage, processing and marketing), through the use of technology and innovation, enablers and extensive capacity development activities.



A Bangladeshi farmer is showing ripe jackfruits.

### WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project focused on three main deliverables to foster the implementation of OCOP: (i) the establishment of technical networks for the promotion and transformation of innovation and green technologies in the project countries; (ii) the development of an enabling policy environment that supports the promotion of innovation and green practices to develop SAPs; and (iii) the implementation of effective coordination, communication, partnership and resource mobilization mechanisms for the green development of SAPs. The project was successful in delivering on all three areas, and the experiences and achievements in the five demonstration countries have set great examples for the implementation of OCOP in other countries.

The project helped all five countries leverage their unique potential and identify the SAPs adapted to specific agroecological production systems and national cultural and cultural heritage, ensuring strengthened access to stable markets, improved practices throughout the value chain and increased capacity of all relevant stakeholders.

### IMPACT

By strengthening SAP value chains, this project has significantly contributed to improved food security and livelihoods, as well as the promotion of more environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, with a particular focus on climate-smart and climate resilient agriculture, integrated pest management, precision agriculture, and plant biotechnology. The investments in capacity development and the adoption of innovation have established the basis for the continued implementation of OCOP in the five demonstration project countries, as well as the lessons learned for the further expansion of the initiative elsewhere.

### KEY FACTS

#### Latest Approved Budget

USD 500 000

#### Duration

December 2022-December 2023

#### Resource Partners

Multilateral, Donors of the Flexible Voluntary Contribution (FVC)

#### Partners

Bureau of Socioeconomic Research and Training (BSERT) Bangladesh; Department of Agricultural Marketing, Agricultural Research Institute and Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh; Central Laboratory for Date Palm Research and Development (CLDPRD), Agricultural Research Center (ARC), Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Egypt; Department of Crop Development (DCD), Ministry of Agriculture, Malawi; University of West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, Cocoa Research Centre (CRC), Trinidad and Tobago

#### Beneficiaries

Value chain actors working with Special Agricultural Products (SAPs)

# ACTIVITIES

- National Inception and Conclusion workshops were organized for all five countries.
- OCOPI value chain analysis was carried out for five SAPs and was conducted using the Sustainable Food Value Chain methodology, and the findings were used to inform national reports and strategies.
- Over 850 beneficiaries (globally) were trained in innovative approaches for the sustainable production, storage, processing and/or marketing of the selected SAPs.
- In Bangladesh, over 150 local farmers and other value chain actors were trained on better production, post-harvest and processing of jackfruit, with manuals produced in Bengali.
- In Egypt, the Egyptian Date Palm Network was established, and a national strategy for the sector was developed. Technical assistance was provided to seven factories working towards internal certification in food safety.
- In Malawi, over 70 extension workers and 66 community-based facilitators were trained on innovative and more sustainable practices for banana production, such as virus-free suckers through micropropagation and good agricultural practices, utilizing farmer field schools and multi-actor innovation platforms. Additionally, partnership was enhanced with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on the banana value chain analysis.
- In Trinidad and Tobago, numerous events were organized to promote the cocoa sector. Researchers from the Cocoa Research Centre of the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, collaborated with the Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (CDCTTL) to optimize small farm management, enhance quality control processes and promote precision agriculture.
- In Uzbekistan, the OCOPI national consultant team organized a series of on-site training workshops on sweet cherry, with the participation of more than 400 producers and value chain actors from more than 15 districts in the Fergana and Samarkand regions.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Participants at the OCOPI National Annual Meeting, December 2023, Uzbekistan.



7th Egypt International Date Palm Festival, October 2023, Egypt.



Participants visit the International Fine Cocoa Innovation Centre during the OCOPI Regional Launch Workshop, August 2023, Trinidad and Tobago.



FAO Deputy Director-General Beth Bechdol visits a family banana orchard during OCOPI Regional Launch in Africa, June 2023, Malawi.



Field visit to a jackfruit orchard during the OCOPI Regional Launch in Asia and the Pacific, July 2023, Bangladesh.

## Project Title

Innovative Approaches for Better Plant Production

## Project Code

FAO: FMM/GLO/177/MUL

## Contact

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Partnerships and Outreach

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## OCOP website

<https://www.fao.org/one-country-one-priority-product/en>

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