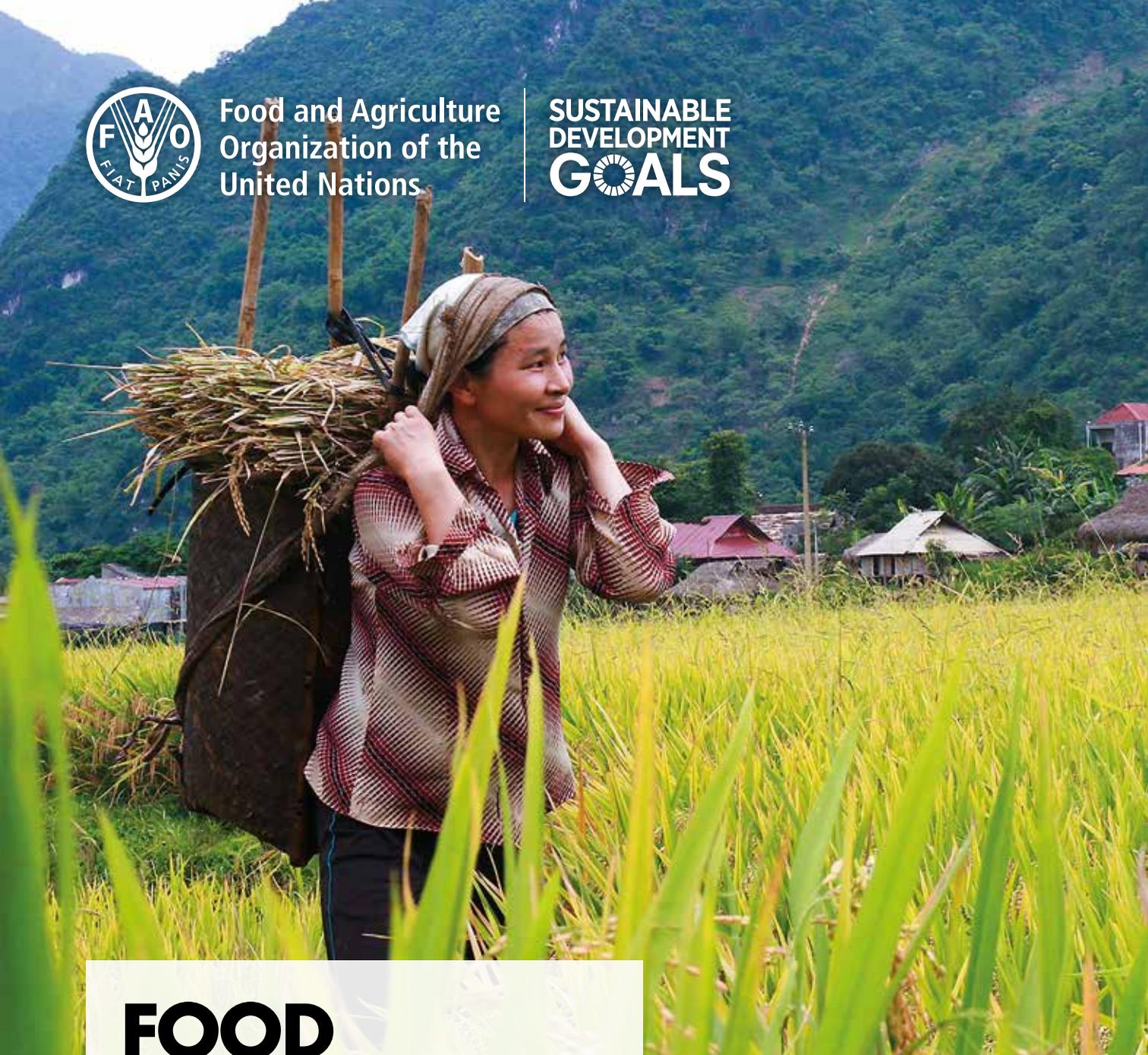




Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



# FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Driving action across  
the 2030 Agenda  
for Sustainable Development

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## SIERRA LEONE

Farmers harvesting cabbages in Sorbeh community near Kabala Town in Koinadugu District in northern Sierra Leone.

©Sebastian Liste/NOOR for FAO

A photograph showing three farmers in a field harvesting cabbages. On the left, a woman in a brown patterned dress and headwrap holds a large bunch of cabbages. In the center, a woman in a green and white striped shirt and white headwrap is working. On the right, a man in a grey shirt and patterned headwrap is filling a green bag with cabbages. The background shows a hazy landscape with trees and hills.

“The best way to ensure no one is left behind in 2030 is by addressing root causes. Investments, policies and partnerships aimed at strengthening the resilience and growth potential of poor rural people can achieve great things – zero hunger, nourishing food and collective prosperity, all while nurturing the planet.”

FAO Director-General  
José Graziano da Silva

# INTRODUCTION

**Our planet faces multiple and complex challenges in the twenty-first century. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commits the international community to act together to overcome them and transform our world for present and future generations.**

On 25 September 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 targets and 230 indicators.

Defined and fully owned by countries, the 2030 Agenda is a global vision for people, for the planet and for long-term prosperity. It charts a plan for the future, shifting the world onto a sustainable and resilient course in leading to a transformation in living standards.

The 2030 Agenda aims to tackle the complex challenges facing the planet today – ending poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and responding to climate change while achieving inclusive growth, building resilient

communities and sustainably managing our natural resources.

Succeeding the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs are interlinked, integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. Relevant to nations, they call for comprehensive and participatory approaches that bring everybody together to leave no one behind.

Countries are now advancing from translating the SDGs to their national plans to implementation, determining how best to commit national efforts to produce transformational change – based on their own priorities, needs and capacities.

## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

The 2030 Agenda includes a global reporting structure involving contributions from local, national and regional levels. It culminates in the UN High-Level Political Forum, an annual intergovernmental meeting that provides guidance and recommendations, identifies progress and challenges, and mobilizes action to accelerate implementation of the 17 SDGs.

# FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN THE 2030 AGENDA

To overcome the great challenges we face today, our future actions must be transformative, embracing the principles of sustainability and tackling root causes to leave no one behind.

As the fundamental connection between people and the planet, sustainable food and agriculture are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. Without proper nourishment, children cannot learn, people cannot lead healthy and productive lives, and societies cannot prosper. Without nurturing our land and adopting climate-resilient agriculture, future generations will struggle to feed a growing population.

Key to success will be developing the rural sector, and an approach that focuses on rural people.

Agriculture, today, is the world's biggest employer and largest economic sector for many countries. Yet rural people – who produce 80 percent of our food – make up four-fifths of the global poor.

A lesson from the MDGs is that we can no longer look at food, livelihoods and the management of natural resources separately.

**Focusing on food and agriculture, investing in rural people and transforming the rural sector can spur progress towards SDG targets.**

Investing in the comprehensive vision of SDG2, *End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*, can catalyse achievement right across the 2030 Agenda. The ambition of SDG2 amounts to ensuring people are able to access sufficient nourishing food, sustaining our natural resources and safeguarding biodiversity, transforming food systems and the rural sector while increasing the productivity and income of smallholder farmers, fishers, foresters and pastoralists.

Actions to achieve SDG2 will accelerate progress across a great many goals and targets, including poverty (SDG1), health (SDG3), gender equality (SDG5), water (SDG6), economic growth (SDG8), industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG9), inequality (SDG10), sustainable production and consumption (SDG12), climate change (SDG13), oceans and seas (SDG14), ecosystems, biodiversity and forests (SDG15), and peaceful societies (SDG16).

## TACKLING SDG2 AND SDG1, HUNGER AND POVERTY, TOGETHER

There is enough food for everyone on the planet today, yet about 800 million people are undernourished. Hunger today is not caused by a lack of supply but because hundreds of millions of people simply cannot afford to buy enough food. At the same time, almost 80 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas, where people depend on agriculture, fisheries or forestry as their main source of income and food. Vulnerable to climate change and other shocks, they are disproportionately affected by crises, often the first victims of disasters and the degradation of natural resources.

# KEY MESSAGES

## INVESTMENT IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE WILL DRIVE CHANGE ACROSS THE SDGs

Accelerated investment in sustainable agriculture and food systems, and in rural people is a proven accelerator of sustainable development that helps countries realize multiple SDGs: ending extreme poverty, hunger and malnutrition; promoting sustainable management of natural resources, including biodiversity, fisheries, forests, land, soils, water, and oceans; and mitigating while also adapting and building resilience to climate change.

## TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND, WE MUST ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF RURAL PEOPLE

Rural people make up nearly 80 percent of the extreme poor, and number 3.5 billion. To eradicate extreme poverty, reduce the greatest inequalities and foster inclusive growth, we must promote a rural transformation that empowers rural people as critical agents of change. Policies and programmes improving the livelihoods and resilience of smallholder farmers, foresters, fishers, pastoralists and labourers, with particular focus on rural women, indigenous peoples and youth, can make or break achievement of the SDGs in most countries.

## WE CAN REACH ZERO HUNGER IF WE WORK TOGETHER

Ending poverty and hunger by 2030 is feasible – if we join forces and act on evidence. Tackling root causes by targeting rural populations, providing access to social protection programmes, committing to pro-poor investment and growth, and promoting sustainable food and agriculture are top of the policy agenda needed to help countries make the 2030 Agenda’s historic commitment become a reality.

A specialized UN agency, FAO has a long history of working in all three dimensions of sustainable development on projects designed to leave no one behind. The Organization’s technical capacity, global reach, monitoring expertise, and experience building partnerships and shaping policy can support countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

### NICARAGUA

A woman selling fruits and vegetables at the Roberto Huembes Market, in Managua.  
©FAO/Saul Palma



# THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS



## **Achieving the great ambition of the SDGs hinges on cooperation and partnerships between multiple actors and across a broad range of areas.**

Sharing expertise, resources and investments as part of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development is crucial to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Responding to the spirit of global solidarity to overcome common challenges, countries are broadening participation, forging new partnerships and calling for the involvement of all development actors – the United Nations system, civil society, the private sector, the donor community, academia, cooperatives, and others.

National platforms are being established to develop more integrated programmes and policies, to better interlink different goals and targets. At the same time, multi-stakeholder mechanisms and new forms of participatory governance structures are bolstering policy ownership, while helping to mobilize capacities, information, technologies, and access to financial and production resources.

As international cooperation increases, UN support to countries is shifting to emphasize policy advice, institutional capacity development and monitoring of progress. The role of the UN system as a trusted and neutral facilitator of support processes and partnerships is fundamental.

FAO has identified multistakeholder partnerships as one of the key drivers of its support to the 2030 Agenda. The Organization plays a leading role in governance matters and participatory approaches to policy-making, bringing together diverse state and non-state players to interact and discuss policy, supplying essential data, norms and standards, and supporting countries in implementing inclusive and cross-cutting actions.

At global, regional and national levels, FAO builds partnerships to support enabling environments for policies and programmes to achieve transformative change on food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture. The Organization works to strengthen the capacities of stakeholders and mobilize resources in order to accelerate efforts aimed at rural transformation and ending poverty and hunger.

Chair of the Ndotinabole Group, Rodrigue Tribunal, standing in a crop of cassava that is being cultivated using an improved technique, part of the FAO Project: Regional Cassava Initiative in support of vulnerable smallholders in eastern and central Africa. ©FAO/Riccardo Gangale

# LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

## ZOOMING IN ON RURAL PEOPLE

Making up close to 80 percent of the world's poor, rural people are key to SDG success. Investments in smallholder farmers, fishers and foresters, rural women and youth, indigenous people and vulnerable populations have the potential to produce dramatic and lasting effects on the economies of developing nations, transforming people into entrepreneurs and stewards of the environment. They are the agents of change.

### SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

**WHO:** Smallholder and family farmers, including producers, fishers, foresters, herders, rural workers, totalling about 2 billion people.

**ROLE PLAYED:** Produce most of the food we eat by working the land, raising animals, harvesting fish and managing forests. As stewards of the planet's natural resources, their daily management decisions are key to global food security and the health of the world's ecosystems.

**WHY FOCUS:** A strong entrepreneurial spirit already exists in the rural sector.



Increasing farmers' access to resources, employment, income and investment will improve food and nutrition security, sustainability of natural resources, raising productivity and national growth.

**HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** By committing to pro-poor investment and growth,



and providing access to social protection programmes. Developing rural infrastructure, markets and rural–urban linkages. Diversifying rural employment into non-agricultural activities, and providing farmers with affordable new technologies.

## UZBEKISTAN

A woman collecting apples in Uzbekistan. Farmers care for their apple orchards thanks to modern drip irrigation technologies they obtained with the support of FAO. ©FAO/Rustam Shagaev



## RURAL WOMEN

**WHO:** Rural women make up almost half the agricultural labour force in developing countries.

**ROLE PLAYED:** Make crucial contributions to agriculture and rural economies. Critical actors in food and nutrition security, as women have primary responsibilities for household and child-rearing activities, in most societies.

**WHY FOCUS:** Empowering women is the best way to multiply well-being. Evidence shows that when women are given equal access to resources, income opportunities, education and social protection, agricultural output and food availability increases and the number of poor and hungry declines.

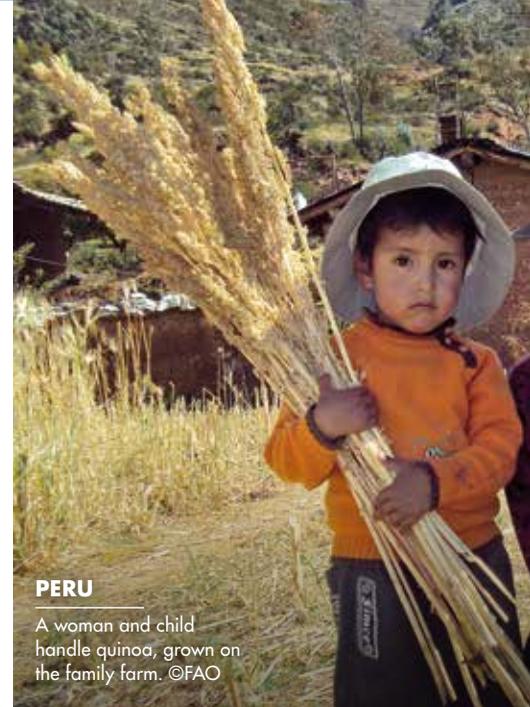
**HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** By improving women's rights to land and tenure, and participation in rural labour markets and decision-making. Providing access to labour-saving technologies to free women's time for more productive activities. Investing in women's nutrition, and in nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

# LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND



## THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Young women and a boy walk along a dirt road as they carry produce to the market in Kabalo, Katanga province. ©FAO/Olivier Asselin



## PERU

A woman and child handle quinoa, grown on the family farm. ©FAO

## RURAL YOUTH

**WHO:** Numbers of 15–24-year-olds are projected to increase sharply in rural locations of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, regions experiencing fast population growth.

**ROLE PLAYED:** Young people are the life-blood of society. They possess substantial productive capacity and innovative potential, actors most capable of integrating modern agriculture methods with traditional knowledge.

**WHY FOCUS:** The migration of unemployed youth from the country to the city in search of a job is altering the demographic in developing nations, contributing to an aged rural community and to major stress on urban centres.

**HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** By adopting employment generation policies that go beyond farming to rejuvenate the rural sector work force. Investing in education and youth training to enhance skills and increase opportunities.

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

**WHO:** Indigenous peoples and pastoralists number more than 370 million in over 70 countries, comprising about 15 percent of the world's poor.

**ROLE PLAYED:** Make major contributions to world heritage and food security thanks to their understanding of ecosystem management.

**WHY FOCUS:** Increasingly marginalized due to land rights violations and vulnerable



**THE PHILIPPINES**

A farming family, the Garredo, received support from FAO's rice seed and fertilizer distribution programmes. ©FAO/L.Liwanag

to climatic effects, they are abandoning traditional lands for the city. Urbanization has led to extreme economic poverty, while ecosystems, long managed by indigenous peoples, have been affected.

**HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** By ensuring rights of land and tenure are respected. Encouraging participation in development processes. Generating greater access to the market and resources – technical and financial – as well as opportunities for trade and commercial activity.

**VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

**WHO:** People who live in areas prone to conflict, disaster and crisis.

**ROLE PLAYED:** Largely rural people working in agriculture who brave hazardous conditions in growing food and making a living.

**WHY FOCUS:** In 2017, some 147 million people living in areas experiencing protracted crises were undernourished –

that's about 1 in 5 of the world's hungry people. Disasters and crises directly affect food access and production, undermining efforts to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

**HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** By strengthening resilience – developing capacities, diversifying activities, promoting rural employment, and investing in social protection – food assistance, cash transfers and school feeding.

# PATH TO ZERO HUNGER BY 2030

In September 2015, the 193 UN Member States commit to 17 SDGs, including

**ZERO HUNGER**  
BY 2030



BY THE YEAR 2030  
WORLD POPULATION  
IS PROJECTED TO GROW  
TO AROUND



8.3 billion



**DEMAND FOR FOOD  
WILL GROW**

Increase investment in agriculture. Build market infrastructure and improve public goods to help raise productivity and rural incomes.

SDGs 1 2 9 10



**ABOUT 800 MILLION PEOPLE  
GO HUNGRY TODAY**



Promote nutrition policies, including dietary education, and shift to consumption and production approaches that promote biodiversity and long-term health benefits.

SDGs 2 3



Establish social protection systems to improve food access, such as school food and cash transfers. Without nourishment, humans cannot learn, or lead healthy and productive lives.

SDGs 1 2 3 4 8 10



Sustainably manage forests, oceans, water, land and soil – and promote an ecosystem approach to extract greater agricultural yield with fewer inputs.

SDGs 2 6 13 14 15



RIISING FOOD DEMAND IS  
**INCREASING COMPETITION  
FOR NATURAL RESOURCES**



**MALNUTRITION AFFECTS  
1 IN 3 PEOPLE AND ALL NATIONS**

OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY IS RISING

Improve the way food commodity markets function, and limit extreme food price volatility.

SDGs 2 7 12 17



Make food systems more efficient, inclusive and resilient.

SDGs 2 7 12 17



**A LARGE SHARE OF FOOD  
PRODUCED IS LOST OR WASTED**



ALMOST  
**4 IN 5 POOR PEOPLE  
LIVE IN RURAL AREAS**

Develop pro-poor growth strategies in rural areas, focusing on small-scale farmers and the people left furthest behind.

SDGs 1 2 8 9 10



The actions in this graphic are not intended to be sequential. They follow no order.

Address root causes of inequality. Give poor people access to health, education, land, finance and new technology.

SDGs **1 2 10 17**



## INEQUALITIES ARE INCREASING

BOTH WITHIN AND BETWEEN COUNTRIES



IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND SOUTH ASIA

## YOUTH NUMBERS ARE RISING FAST



Diversify rural employment into non-agricultural activities targeting youth to slow their exodus to cities.

SDGs **1 2 9 11 16 17**



Ensure rural women have equal access to resources, income opportunities, and education.

SDGs **1 2 3 4 5 8 10**



## GENDER EQUALITY

IS A PRECONDITION FOR PROSPERITY



## INCREASING GHG EMISSIONS

ARE EXACERBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Transform agriculture so that it contributes to fossil fuel reduction.

SDGs **2 7 13 17**



## OUTBREAKS OF TRANSBOUNDARY PESTS AND DISEASES

ARE GROWING ALARMINGLY

Establish best practices in preventing diseases and anti-microbial resistance that threaten plant and animal production, public health and trade.

SDGs **2 3 8 17**



## GLOBALIZATION IS INCREASING DEMAND

FOR INFORMATION, TECHNOLOGY AND PARTICIPATION

Build institutions and mechanisms that provide international norms, standards and data, and promote cooperation among countries and partners.

SDGs **2 16 17**



## CLIMATE CHANGE

IS JEOPARDIZING CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND FISH STOCKS



Adopt holistic approaches, such as agro-ecology, agroforestry, climate-smart and conservation agriculture.

SDGs **2 7 13 17**



## CONFLICTS AND CRISES

ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY PROTRACTED



Build the resilience of rural communities to withstand shocks, crises and disasters. Tackle distress migration.

SDGs **1 2 10 16**



# NOURISHING PEOPLE, NURTURING THE PLANET

THE SDGs ARE  
THE WORLD'S  
RESPONSE TO A  
CLIMATE OF  
INSTABILITY AND  
A THREATENING  
CONFLUENCE OF  
PRESSURES, CHIEF  
OF WHICH IS  
HOW TO  
PRODUCE MORE  
WITH LESS.

The focus of the  
SDGs is not on the  
end goal alone, but  
also on the means  
used to achieve it.

The MDG era, 1990–2015, brought significant benefits to millions of people, including by nearly halving the proportion of hungry people in the world. However, much of humanity's progress has come at a considerable cost to the environment. High-input, resource-intensive farming has contributed to deforestation,

water scarcity, soil depletion and high levels of greenhouse gas emissions. Today, there are more people on our planet to feed with less water and productive land.

The 2030 Agenda fully recognizes the need to responsibly manage and conserve natural resources and biodiversity. Transforming food and agriculture systems, shifting to more sustainable and diversified consumption and production patterns, improving governance and securing the political will to act are vital in building a viable future for humankind.

## TIME FOR A GREENER REVOLUTION

The Green Revolution of the mid-to-late 20th century provided a much needed increase in agricultural productivity to keep pace with rapid population growth. It is now time for a second green revolution in which agriculture continues to provide abundant and healthy food while at the same time promoting the conservation and use of ecosystem services and biodiversity. The potential exists to reverse the trends that lead to natural resources degradation, salinization of soils and desertification. Approaches exist to produce more and healthier food in a sustainable way with fewer resources, reducing encroachment on natural ecosystems, including forests and wetlands.



**CAMBODIA**

A cooking demonstration for improved nutrition in Cambodia.  
©FAO

# A COMMON VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Balancing the different dimensions of sustainability is at the heart of FAO's *Common Vision for Food and Agriculture*. Working with partners, FAO has developed sustainable approaches in areas such as agroecology, agroforestry, biotechnology, and climate-smart and conservation agriculture that bring together traditional knowledge, modern technology and innovation. Capacity development supports their adaptation at community and country levels to ensure local relevance and applicability. From 2014 to 2016, FAO supported 245 initiatives in 89 countries in sustainable agricultural production practices using participatory approaches.

## FIVE KEY PRINCIPLES

1. Improving efficiency in the use of resources
2. Conserving, protecting and enhancing natural ecosystems
3. Protecting and improving rural livelihoods and social well-being
4. Enhancing the resilience of people, communities and ecosystems
5. Promoting good governance of both natural and human systems

# FOOD IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Food production threatens to be the greatest casualty of climate change, but sustainable agriculture has the ability, through adaptation and mitigation, to respond to more extreme weather events.

Climate change is having profound consequences on our planet's diversity of life and on people's lives. Sea levels are rising and oceans are warming. Longer, more intense droughts threaten freshwater supplies and crops, endangering efforts to feed a growing world population.

Without action, the changing climate will seriously compromise food production in countries and regions that are already highly food insecure. It will affect food availability by reducing the productivity of crops, livestock and fisheries, and hinder access to food by disrupting the livelihoods of millions of rural people who depend on agriculture for their incomes. It will expose both urban and rural poor to higher and more volatile food prices.

Ultimately, it will jeopardize progress towards the SDGs.

Agriculture has a major role to play in responding to climate change. FAO is now supporting countries to both adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change through research-based programmes and projects, with a focus on adapting smallholder production and making the livelihoods of rural populations more resilient.

More resilient agriculture sectors and intelligent investments in smallholder farmers can deliver transformative change, and enhance the prospects and incomes of the world's poorest while buffering them against the impacts of climate change. The benefits of adaptation outweigh the costs of inaction by very wide margins.

## IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

Over the past 10 years, the agriculture sector has absorbed at least 25 percent of the total damage and losses caused by droughts, floods and storms and other climate extreme events. Those who are now suffering most have contributed least to the changing climate. Farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk and community foresters depend on activities that are intimately and inextricably linked to climate. They will require greater access to technologies, markets, information and credit for investment to adapt their production systems and practices to the changing climate.



#### **GAZA STRIP**

Gaza City – A beneficiary of the FAO Project tending to the vegetable garden he maintains on the rooftop of his home.  
©FAO/Marco Longari

Promoting practices like agroecology that allow producers to thrive in a changing climate, FAO supports countries to develop their national climate plans, identifying adaptation solutions and mitigation options to build resilient food production systems and sectors.

## **CLIMATE FINANCING**

Channelling public and private investments into agricultural sectors, including through flows of climate finance, can harness their transformative potential. At the UNFCCC Climate Conference (COP21) in December 2015, Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) were the basis for negotiations, helping form the Paris Agreement. At COP22 in 2016 these INDCs became Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) roadmaps for achieving the Paris Agreement. The Agriculture sectors feature prominently in the 161 INDCs and 22 NDCs submitted to the UNFCCC by 189 countries as at 29 July 2016. FAO has a long history of working with governments to advise on public agricultural investment, and a strong track record of working with national and international financial institutions to develop and deliver bankable projects.

# BUILDING RESILIENT LIVES

Brought into sharp focus by the 2007–08 food price crisis, poverty, food insecurity and climatic events are global problems with economic and political consequences.

The recurrence of disasters and crises undermines countries' efforts to end poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and to achieve sustainable development. People who rely on farming, livestock, forests or fishing for their food and income – around one-third of the world's population – are most vulnerable to drought, floods, earthquakes, conflict, disease epidemics and market shocks.

By helping countries strengthen early warning and disaster risk reduction systems, FAO aims to increase the resilience of households, communities and institutions to prevent and cope with threats and disasters that impact agriculture; ensuring the most vulnerable, the rural poor, prepare for any emergency.

## TACKLING THE ROOT CAUSES OF DISTRESS MIGRATION

The movement of people within and across lands has taken place throughout the ages. Safe and

regular migration contributes to sustainable development, economic growth and food security. Today, however, there is increasing evidence of distress migration, which presents complex challenges. Conflict and political instability have forced more people to flee their homes than at any time since the Second World War. But poverty, food insecurity, unemployment, climate change and environmental degradation are also among the root causes of mass migration.

Rural development can address factors that compel people to move by creating business opportunities and jobs for young people that go beyond crops, such as small dairy or poultry production, food processing or horticulture enterprises. Directing resources to the rural sector can also lead to increased food security, more resilient livelihoods, better access to social protection, reduced conflict over natural resources and solutions to environmental degradation and climate change.



## CONFLICT AND PROTRACTED CRISES

In 2017, millions were facing famine in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and northeastern Nigeria. Increasingly at the root of protracted crises, conflict, made worse by extreme weather events and natural disasters, disrupts agricultural production and exacerbates food insecurity. In 2017, about 1 in 5 of the world's undernourished people, some 147 million, were living in countries experiencing protracted crises.



## UGANDA

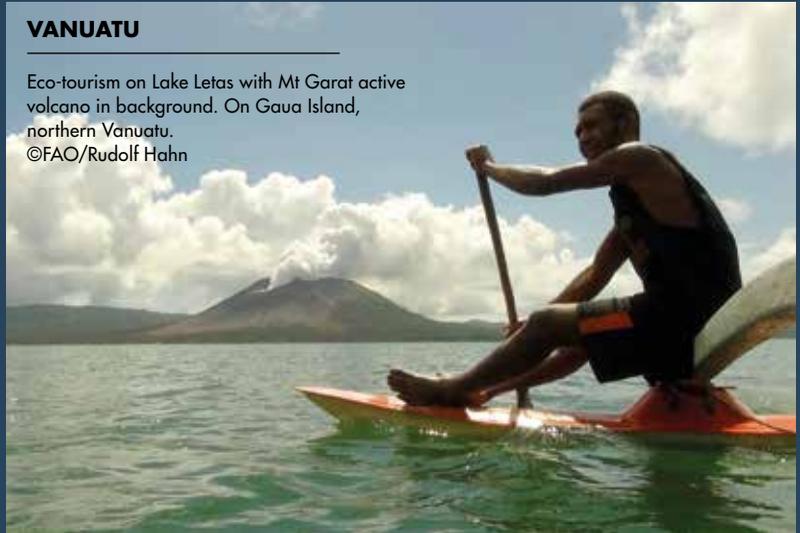
Ocukuri, Lira, Uganda – A man walks past the Lira integrated fish farm. ©FAO/Isaac Kasamani

FAO is working with governments, UN agencies, the private sector, civil society and local communities to build countries' capacities to address migration through rural development policies.

# THE SPECIAL CASE OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

## VANUATU

Eco-tourism on Lake Letas with Mt Garat active volcano in background. On Gaua Island, northern Vanuatu. ©FAO/Rudolf Hahn



Geographically remote, import-dependent and exposed to extreme weather patterns, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) share unique vulnerabilities, resulting in a complex set of food security and nutrition challenges. High costs for energy, infrastructure, transportation and communication curb opportunities for the private-sector development needed to stimulate domestic food production. The result is a looming health crisis with many SIDS suffering from the 'triple burden' of malnutrition, where undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and obesity co-exist in the population.

## MINDING THE GAP

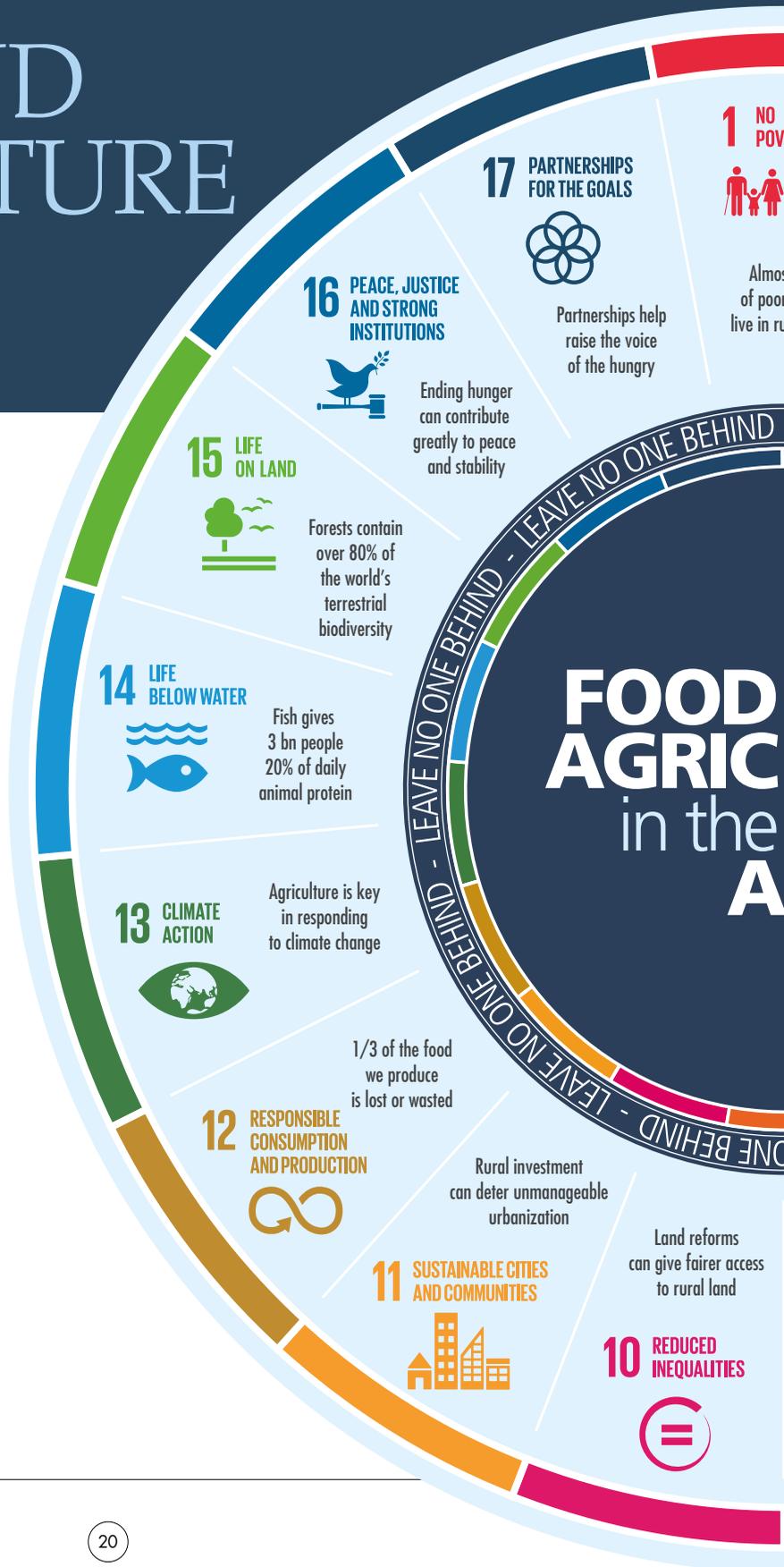
Responding to the invitation of the 52 Small Island Developing States as part of their Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, FAO has developed a Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition (GAP) in close collaboration with other UN entities.

The GAP aims to create enabling environments for food security and nutrition; to transform food systems to improve their nutrition-sensitivity, resilience and sustainability; and to empower people and communities to lead healthy and productive lives.

# FOOD AND AGRICULTURE MATTER

Tied to the principle of leaving no one behind, and driven by means of partnerships and accountability, FAO's broad priorities in the 2030 Agenda are to:

- ▶ End poverty, hunger and malnutrition
- ▶ Enable sustainable development in agriculture, fisheries and forestry
- ▶ Respond to climate change



# THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**GOAL 1** End poverty in all its forms everywhere

**GOAL 2** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

**GOAL 3** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

**GOAL 4** Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

**GOAL 5** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**GOAL 6** Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

**GOAL 7** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

**GOAL 8** Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

**GOAL 9** Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

**GOAL 10** Reduce inequality within and among countries

**GOAL 11** Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**GOAL 12** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**GOAL 13** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

**GOAL 14** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

**GOAL 15**: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

**GOAL 16**: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

**GOAL 17**: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

# COUNTRY STORIES

## CHINA

**Scaling up the ancient Chinese practice of farming fish and rice together**

SDGs **1 2 3 5 8 10 11 12 14 15**

Ever since the late Qing dynasty, Qingtian County, in China’s eastern coastal province of Zhejiang, had been known for mass emigration. Hundreds of thousands escaped poverty in search of a better life.

By 2005, however, the pace of exodus from Qingtian had slowed, due to China’s rising economy, but also through the fame of a 1 200-year-old integrated farming system known as rice–fish culture.

Rice–fish culture is the practice of combining rice farming with aquaculture – that is growing fish in flooded paddy fields. The rice paddies offer protection, organic food and naturally filter the water for the fish, while the fish soften the soil and provide nutrients and oxygen for the rice crop. The fish also eat insects and weeds, maintaining a perfect ecological balance that improves biodiversity while curtailing problems caused by insects and plant diseases and reducing the need for pesticides and fertilizers.

Recognized and promoted by FAO, rice–fish culture has been designated a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System, and has reversed the fortunes of Qingtian County and its people. The county has now become a popular tourist destination, while this ancient farming system has provided ample and diversified income for farmers, many of whom have set up restaurants to cater for the influx of 100 000 tourists every year. FAO is now helping to export the practice to other countries and continents.

## NIGER

**Strengthening infrastructure to boost yield**

SDGs **1 2 5 8 9 10 13**

In support of the “Nigeriens nourishing Nigeriens” initiative, FAO is working with the Niger Government to improve country infrastructure for storing and distributing farming equipment, with the ultimate aim of improving the food and nutrition security of poor rural populations. The opening of 8 plants and 12 shops has allowed over 700 000 farmers and herders to gain access to quality agricultural inputs that help them to increase yield and compete

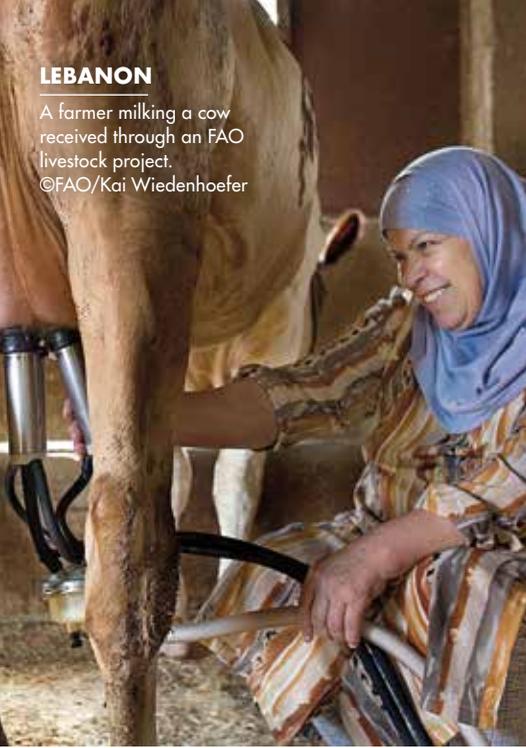
**FAO is scaling up many of the successful projects and programmes the Organization has been working on in scores of countries around the world**

in markets. About 25 hectares of market gardening sites were developed with irrigation equipment and fencing, enabling more than 700 farmers to produce vegetables and other high-value produce, like fish, in an irrigated system. As well as contributing to a diversified diet and higher incomes, the equipment has helped strengthen farmers’ resilience in the face of climate change and other crises.

As part of the project, some 4 320 members (including 2 880 women) from 144 listening clubs were trained on gender-based participatory communication and on the measures to prevent or adapt to the risks of disasters linked to climate change.

## LEBANON

A farmer milking a cow received through an FAO livestock project.  
©FAO/Kai Wiedenhofer



## BRAZIL

A school feeding programme based on the National School Feeding Programme of Brazil.  
©FAO/Ubirajara Machado



## CHINA

Qingtian rice-fish culture system.  
©FAO

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

SDGs **1** **2** **3** **4** **8** **16**

### Healthy school food and battling the other side of malnutrition

Tackling malnutrition is a major priority in Latin America and the Caribbean. While 34 million people still suffer hunger in the region, more than 10 times that number,

360 million, are overweight, and obesity affects 140 million. The switch in recent times from traditional to more processed, less nutrient-dense foods has contributed greatly to the epidemic.

Under the Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication Plan of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, FAO is supporting relevant national institutions to promote legal

frameworks that favour healthy environments and diverse eating habits among vulnerable groups.

FAO facilitates dialogues and builds capacities to address malnutrition in all its forms, supporting food and nutrition education, sharing public policy experiences in food education and nutritional well-being, knowledge exchange, dialogue and cooperation among countries.

# COUNTRY STORIES

As part of the region’s strong focus on nutrition, school feeding programmes that link nutrition to education to local production are now being scaled up. Covered under state policy, the programmes have widened the net of compulsory public education to include the poorest communities in the country, guaranteeing food for children every school day, while simultaneously strengthening family agriculture and boosting the local economy.

## LEBANON

### Enhancing women’s livelihoods through new safe and sound dairy practices

SDGs **1 2 3 5 8**

The crisis in the neighbouring Syrian Arab Republic has profoundly affected Lebanon’s agriculture sector. Unable to cope with price changes, rising for feed and decreasing for animal products, Lebanese farmers and pastoralists are abandoning livestock. This has not only led to high levels of rural unemployment, but also a country deficit in dairy products. Almost 60 percent of livestock farmers in Lebanon depend

on dairy as their main source of living, with over 80 percent of dairy farmers categorized as vulnerable.

Supporting the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture’s 2015–2019 strategy to assist small-scale farmers, and to encourage women to engage in agriculture-related investments, FAO is facilitating the production and use of hygienic traditional home-processed dairy equipment. The aim is to broaden opportunities for rural women to increase revenue, while securing healthy food for their families and enhancing the quality and safety of milk and dairy products.

Aided by training, the FAO project has contributed to an improvement in milk hygiene standards by around 30 percent, with milk prices increasing by 15–20 percent, benefitting the most vulnerable rural communities.

## SERBIA

SDGs **1 2 8 9 13 16**

### Building resilience to weather the storms

In May 2014, Serbia was hit by a devastating flood that

swept away roads and bridges, destroyed homes and caused human loss of life, as well as extensive damage to crops, soil, livestock and machinery. Damage to agriculture was estimated at 108 million euros and losses in production at 120 million euros.

FAO responded to the disaster by providing emergency assistance to 15 000 flood-affected small-scale farmers to sustainably re-establish their production capacities. Thanks to a US\$ 10 million EU contribution, some 23 agricultural recovery aid packages were prepared for the affected population, which lacked crop seeds, mineral fertilizer, fruit saplings, greenhouses, livestock, animal feed, beehives and various types of farm equipment and machinery.

By the end of the project in May 2016, the FAO–EU programme had supported exactly 29 714 small-scale farming households, double its initial target, with 4 717 livestock owners receiving emergency animal feed. It also provided government representatives

and partners with training on disaster-risk reduction, guidelines on climate change adaptation and livestock emergency, building capacities of Serbian institutions to deal with future emergencies. Together with follow-up projects, FAO's food security emergency assistance reached some 170 000 people in Serbia.

## VIET NAM

### Strengthening producers' organizations to reduce rural poverty

SDGs **1 2 8 15 17**

Viet Nam's National Farmers Union and FAO supported a group of 15 acacia growers, including six households headed by women, to formalize its registration as a producer organization, through the Forest and Farm Facility programme. The group, which managed a total of 57 hectares of forest, received training in enterprise development, wood sawing techniques as well as successful forest-based business models. With additional training in market analysis, seven members of the producer organization

pooled their money to raise an initial capital of US\$23 000 to invest in a small-scale sawmill, which, within seven months, helped increase their income by 10 percent. Now, the acacia growers' organization has applied to become a cooperative that can benefit from government incentives.

Globally, the Forest and Farm Facility works with more than 500 producer organizations, representing approximately 40 million people. The programme helps poor rural people enhance their business skills, build their own enterprises, increase access to markets, services, knowledge and technologies and manage natural resources sustainably. The programme also aims to empower the rural poor and strengthen producers' organizations, to enable them to participate in national decision-making processes that affect their livelihoods.

## CABO VERDE

### Prioritizing Blue Growth

SDGs **1 2 5 8 9 13 14 17**

This African archipelago Small Island Developing State is

surrounded by ocean. Working with FAO, Cabo Verde decided to harness the potential of the seas surrounding it by designing and implementing a Blue Growth Charter. Adopted in 2015, this Blue Growth Charter balances environmental, economic and social development of the ocean. Priority activities include climate change research, conservation of sharks, developing marine protected areas, strengthening fisheries communities, improving sanitation and quality of fish products through better practices and storage. The Charter also focuses on promoting local fish products in tourism and empowering women's groups to market their fish directly to restaurants and hotels, developing ecotourism, improving marine transport networks to facilitate tourism and exploration of other islands, and creating jobs for young people who are too often forced to seek work abroad. Blue Growth policies and activities cut across ministries and jurisdictions, and the cohesive approach allows Cabo Verde to prioritize Blue Growth activities for the benefit of its people.

# COUNTRY STORIES

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

SDGs **1 2 8 9 16 17**

### Lending weight to smallholder financial investment

Good policy practices for inclusive rural and agricultural finance gathered by FAO and key partners – IFAD, World Bank, GIZ, UNCDF, and Rabobank – form the basis of a state-of-the-art capacity development programme targeting field practitioners such as producer organizations, financial institutions, government agencies and private agribusiness firms. Results were outstanding with 29 institutions from 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean – Barbados, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru – participating in training delivered by FAO between 2014 and 2015 on how to mainstream good policy practices in their daily operations. Outcomes include improved ability of smallholder families and small and medium agribusinesses to access a wide set of financial services from institutions that have the ability to assess and respond to their needs. The training has resulted in several follow-up

initiatives with local partners, including Agrobanco from Peru, and FIRA from Mexico.

## ALGERIA, EGYPT, MOROCCO AND TUNISIA

SDGs **1 2 6 15 17**

### Using non-conventional waters to sustain livelihoods

In the dry areas of North Africa and the Near East, population growth and rapid urbanization are intensifying pressures on already scarce, fresh water resources. In addressing these challenges, FAO has joined forces with Italian partner universities and corporations to launch a project on urban wastewater use for irrigation. Safe, environmentally sound and cost-efficient techniques on treating wastewater are now employed in municipalities throughout Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. The project has also supported the construction of water treatment facilities and fertigation schemes in these countries while also ensuring long-term sustainability through capacity building. Stakeholders are equipped with skills that enable them to properly manage and replicate these systems, in order to fully reap the benefits

of the innovative techniques applied. Building upon the experiences of the Regional Water Scarcity Initiative, this endeavour demonstrates the sustainability and economic viability of low-cost wastewater treatments to improve the livelihoods of populations in the region.

## KAZAKHSTAN, TAJIKISTAN, UZBEKISTAN

SDGs **1 2 6 13 15**

### Sharing techniques to yield more wheat on the drying Steppe

The widespread adoption of conservation agriculture (CA) in northern Kazakhstan's wheat belt has been driven by necessity. While the country has vast land resources for wheat production, and is one of the world's leading producers and exporters of high-quality wheat and flour, the crop relies entirely on precipitation and is, therefore, vulnerable to the loss of soil moisture that the region has recently experienced. The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center and FAO, together with Kazakh scientists and farmers, launched a programme to introduce CA in rainfed areas. The programme trials demonstrated that CA practices including zero-tillage and crop rotation had the

potential to produce higher wheat yields and to reduce labour and fuel costs. Applying these principles, some farmers in Kostanay province achieved yields of two tonnes per hectare, almost double the previous national average. CA is considered highly suitable for all of Central Asia's major cropping systems, from north Kazakhstan's wheat belt down to the irrigated wheat, rice and cotton fields of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Other countries in the region could learn from the Kazakhstani example, where state policy promotes CA, and the top priority in agricultural research is the development and dissemination of water-saving technologies.

## ASIA

SDGs **1** **2** **12**

### Tackling post-harvest fruit and vegetable losses

The agriculture sector is critically important for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste, particularly in improving food security and nutrition. Foods that are rich in micronutrients, such as fruits and vegetables, are vital to health. However, post-harvest losses in these sectors are high

largely as a result of improper handling, transportation and packaging, poor storage and generally weak infrastructure. Limited awareness and knowledge among stakeholders also contribute to losses. In these Asian countries, FAO piloted good post-harvest management practices to improve quality, assure safety and reduce losses in traditional fruit and vegetable supply chains. Core capacities were created among experts, trainers and value chain stakeholders in good post-harvest management practices and improved technologies. Market surveys were conducted in priority supply chains to identify major bottlenecks that contribute to losses. In all, more than 200 stakeholders and 50 trainers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste were trained.

## KENYA

SDGs **1** **2** **5** **15** **16**

### Ensuring fairer access to land for pastoralist communities

Kenya's exponential population growth from 29 million in the 1990s to 46 million in 2016 led to fierce demand and competition for land and the associated goods and

services. With research showing that effective control of land has great influence on people's capacity to construct livelihoods, overcome poverty, and improve food and nutrition security, FAO worked with the Government of Kenya to provide more equitable access to land resources for two pilot communities, Tana River and Turkana counties.

Maps of the pilot areas created ensured a complete understanding of the dynamics, potential tensions in or between communities, traditional rights to land and the rights of women, youth and other marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples. A crucial part of the project was to support given to local institutions working in land issues, with 350 staff trained in the use of national tools and guidelines to ensure fairer management of local land and resolution of conflicts.

Fairer access to land for vulnerable and marginalized pastoralist communities has not only contributed to improving food and nutrition security, but also strengthened the sustainability of land use and livelihoods.

*These are selected examples. For more information on FAO country work, visit [www.fao.org/home/en/](http://www.fao.org/home/en/)*

# PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

Strengthening strategic partnerships with non-state actors is a major FAO priority in supporting countries to mobilize resources and implement the SDGs.

As well as facilitating collaborations between government and stakeholders, FAO partners with the private sector, civil society, producer organizations, cooperatives, academia and research institutions with shared objectives of developing capacities, exchanging knowledge, promoting best practices and driving inclusive participation.

## LEADING MULTISTAKEHOLDER ALLIANCES

FAO participates in and often leads, hosts or provides the technical secretariat for major inter-agency and multistakeholder alliances, including the UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition, the Committee on

World Food Security, the UN High Level Task Force on Global Food Security, UN-Energy, UN-Water and UN-Oceans.

Accountable and transparent multistakeholder platforms and partnerships can help speed up implementation of the ambitious 2030 Agenda, which is characterized by interlinked targets across different goals and calls for inclusivity and involvement of all actors on the road towards sustainable societies. Promoting holistic, balanced approaches to achieving the SDGs, multistakeholder platforms create a common space to voice and shape solutions towards shared objectives, helping to mobilize capacities, information, technologies, financial requirements and access to productive resources.

Means of implementation targets feature in each of the SDGs as well as in SDG17, *Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development*, where they are separated into sections on finance, technology, capacity building, trade and systemic issues. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, June 2015, on financing for development is integral to the 2030 Agenda.

**ACHIEVING  
17 GOALS AND  
169 TARGETS  
IN LESS THAN  
15 YEARS  
CALLS FOR ALL  
DEVELOPMENT  
ACTORS TO PULL  
TOGETHER**



**BENIN**

Fishing community in Aido Beach at work hauling boats onto shore. ©FAO/Desirey Minkoh

**COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY**

SDGs: **1** **2** **3** **4** **5** **6** **7** **8** **9** **10**  
**11** **12** **13** **14** **15** **16** **17**

Widely recognized as a model approach to multi-stakeholder engagement, the FAO-hosted Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security

and nutrition. The CFS brings together representatives from civil society and cooperatives, the private sector and businesses, scientific and academic institutions, donors and philanthropic foundations to discuss policy alongside government delegates, who ultimately take decisions.

Led by a joint secretariat involving FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food

Programme (WFP), the CFS supports countries to implement negotiated cross-cutting policy products. Significant products implemented in recent years include the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, and the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises.

# PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION



## UGANDA

31 Chinese experts and technicians have been sent to Uganda to provide technical assistance in crop production, aquaculture, horticulture, livestock and agribusiness.

©FAO/Alessandro Stelzer

## ► Rice and fish flourish in Nigeria's paddies

SDGs **1** **2** **8** **9** **14** **17**

**WHO** China and Nigeria

**HOW** A traditional Chinese farming technique that cultivates rice and fish side-by-side was introduced through an FAO facilitated initiative. Rice-fish co-cultures lessen the environmental impact of agricultural chemicals and help make rice farming more profitable. Through a Unilateral Trust Fund, Nigeria supported the project with eight Chinese experts fielded to pilot activities and provide training in over 30 states.

**IMPACT** Rice-fish culture (RFC) has been introduced successfully in more than 10 000 hectares in Nigeria. The project has led to locally produced rice and fish being available both in rural and urban areas with rice yields increasing by 22 to 100 percent.

**OVERVIEW** While providing quality, fresh protein for local consumers, the net income of smallholder farmers increased by from 29 to 96 percent. Following the success, RFC is being replicated in Sierra Leone and Mali.

## SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

A major part of a renewed global partnership, South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC) aims to bring together countries and development actors to share knowledge, capacity and experience. FAO is expanding its role as facilitator of SSC to enhance agricultural productive

capacity and the use of sustainable agricultural practices. Countries profit from mutual learning, technical oversight, sharing adaptable and sustainable technology, and help in mobilizing resources. FAO has been facilitating SSC since 1996, fielding over 1 800 experts and technicians in more than 50 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East.

## VIET NAM

Researchers for the National Forest Assessment (NFA) using laser technology devices that measure both tree height and thickness in areas of the forest that are inaccessible.  
©FAO/Joan Manuel Baliellas



## PRIVATE SECTOR

Tapping into private sector potential will be key to implementing the SDGs. Partnering with more than 30 private-sector entities, FAO pursues active collaborations with private enterprises, including farmer organizations, small and medium enterprises and international corporations, with the aim of bringing prosperity for all. Far greater than a source of financing, private-sector partnerships promise technology development, knowledge transfer and innovation, job creation and alternative revenue streams.

### ► Google

SDGs: **2 3 6 13 14 15 17**

**WHO** FAO and Google signed a Memorandum of Understanding in December 2015

**WHERE** Global

**OBJECTIVE** To strengthen the capacity of governments in monitoring through the use of high-resolution satellite information as a tool for daily use in natural resource management, offering countries new evidence to base decisions on and craft policies. Accessing Google's geospatial data archives dating back to 1972, FAO offers training on the use of software

tools such as Open Foris and Collect Earth to national experts who will be able to conduct – in a few hours – mapping and classification exercises that used to take weeks or months.

**IMPACT** The technology captures vast quantities of new information on agriculture and natural resources in areas right across the 2030 Agenda, from pest control to water management, from plant health to crop losses, and locust control to climate change. One result is that estimates of the global forest cover have risen by at least 9 percent following the first detailed assessment of trees and forest cover in drylands.

**OVERVIEW** Assists countries in tackling climate change and developing forest and land-use policies, encouraging the engagement of countries in actions to mitigate climate change, preserve biodiversity and combat desertification.

### ► Rabobank Foundation

SDGs: **1 2 5 8 9 12 17**

**WHO** FAO and the Rabobank Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding in September 2013

**WHERE** Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania and Ethiopia (pilot projects)

**OBJECTIVE** Supporting small-scale producers, farmers' organizations and cooperatives gain better access to technology, financial and other services; to inputs aimed at increasing productivity; and by providing support in the food chain to reduce food losses and waste.

**IMPACT** Reaching 500 smallholder families in the United Republic of Tanzania, 400 in Ethiopia and 1 500 in Kenya, Rabobank provided market information and financial instruments enabling smallholders to pursue investment opportunities. Focus has been on capacity development (Ethiopia), financing model (Kenya), and participation in warehouse receipt system for better farm prices (United Republic of Tanzania).

**OVERVIEW** Aims for greater food security and incomes among smallholders; stronger links between farmer groups, rural financing institutions and market channels for selected crops; increased area under effective conservation agriculture management.

# PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

## CIVIL SOCIETY AND PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS

Including the voice of the more marginalized people of our global society in plans to build a better future is a precondition for achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Civil society, producer organizations and cooperatives possess the strongest links to networks that include poor, hungry and vulnerable communities whose actions can have a critical impact on sustainable development.

Encompassing some 30 partnership agreements at global, regional and national levels, FAO works to encourage the participation of civil society organizations in governmental processes and in the design and implementation of public policies and regulatory frameworks. The Organization focuses on strengthening their performance in contributing to frameworks and themes, related to the SDGs, climate change, peace and food security and nutrition, while at the same time documenting good practices and sharing knowledge and capacities.

### ► La Via Campesina

SDGs: **1 2 5 11 12 16 17**

**WHO** FAO and La Via Campesina signed an agreement in 2013 to

share information, experiences, good practices and techniques on agro-ecology

**OBJECTIVE** To strengthen peasant-based agro-ecological food production, protect smallholders' rights to access land and water, and to improve farmers' rights over seeds in accordance with international and national seed laws.

**IMPACT** Using 'peasant-to-peasant' methodology, La Via Campesina organizes knowledge-sharing and capacity building events in diverse contexts of agro-ecology, in countries across the world. Products developed have been an agro-ecology toolkit and an agro-ecology school curriculum, sharing information and methodologies on topics ranging from seed conservation to the role of women and youth.

**OVERVIEW:** The framework supports the effective participation of small-scale producers in political processes at different levels, and promotes dialogue for designing sustainable local initiatives, projects and emergency interventions. It emphasizes the key role played by youth and women in food production as well as the need to improve their access to land and other productive resources.

## ► The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

SDGs: **2 6 12 15 16 17**

**WHO** FAO and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the world's largest humanitarian network, signed an agreement in 2013

**OBJECTIVE** To provide technical guidance to complement IFRCs extensive network of 13 million volunteers who in turn reach some 150 million people – to assist poor households cope with threats and disasters that impact agriculture, food security and nutrition.

**IMPACT** More than 4 000 Federation volunteers were provided training in capacity development activities through FAO e-learning courses with the aim of improving the skills of staff and volunteers worldwide. Joint activities developed to address climate change and combat land degradation, including tree planting and sustainable water management, and to reduce food losses and waste with particular attention to marginalized groups such as smallholder food producers, women, young people and older people whose livelihoods depend on natural resources.

**OVERVIEW** Aim is to help improve food security and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities.

## ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

With some 40 unique partnerships in action, FAO collaboration with academic and research institutions is helping to contribute to multiple targets across the SDGs. FAO brings together the world's leading scientists and specialists to gather knowledge and develop approaches that will help tackle our planet's greatest challenge – nourishing people while nurturing the planet.

### ► The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas

SDGs: **2 5 6 17**

**WHO** FAO and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), partnership extended until 2020.

**WHERE** North Africa, Near East.

**OBJECTIVE** To address water scarcity through the development of technical programmes, projects and capacity building workshops, disseminating knowledge to improve water-use efficiency in agriculture and crop water productivity.

**IMPACT** Hundreds of farmers in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia have

benefited from new technologies to improve scarce water management. Mechanized raised-bed production (Egypt); affordable greywater systems irrigation (Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia), and agronomic practices (Morocco and Tunisia) are among techniques demonstrated and adopted.

**OVERVIEW** Aim is to promote sustainable agricultural development and the management of water and land resources to enhance food security and improve livelihoods. The partnership also addresses rural gender inequalities and women's empowerment.

## PARTNERSHIPS WITH AGENCIES

Aggregating comparative advantages across the UN system, FAO works in harmony with other UN specialized agencies, programmes and funds in multiple sectors to share resources and knowhow in supporting countries' sustainable development plans. Along with the special relationship that the Organization possesses with fellow Rome-headquartered food and agriculture entities – the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), FAO has long-standing collaborations with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),

International Labour Organization (ILO), UN Environment (UNE), among many others.

### ► The World Bank

SDGs: **1 2 8 9 14 17**

**WHO** FAO and the World Bank signed a new framework agreement in May 2017, consolidating the agencies' longstanding partnership in the agriculture and rural development sector.

**OBJECTIVE** To strengthen the fight against hunger and poverty, particularly in situations of protracted crises and fragility.

**IMPACT** Expected to create a mechanism where FAO provides technical expertise to governments for projects funded by the World Bank. It will allow faster mobilization of FAO assistance to countries, especially in the context of emergency response, fragility and limited national capacity to implement critical development programmes.

**OVERVIEW** Aim is to improve rural livelihoods, efficient food production and distribution, and the sustainable management of natural resources. Expected to also increase financial resources for development in fragile settings.

*These are selected examples. For more information on FAO partnerships, visit [www.fao.org/partnerships/en/](http://www.fao.org/partnerships/en/)*

# TRACKING PROGRESS

The SDGs are the first Member State-led global development push in history, laying out specific objectives for countries to meet by a given time-frame with achievements monitored periodically to measure progress.

A significant factor in the success of the SDGs will be new and effective ways of collecting data, monitoring targets and measuring progress. In March 2017, the UN Statistical Commission endorsed some 230 indicators to monitor the SDGs'

169 targets. These global indicators will help countries measure the progress they are making towards achieving objectives, learn from experiences and understand in which areas to prioritise and allocate resources.

## WHAT GETS MEASURED, GETS DONE

Bigger and better data have the potential to drive achievement in the battle against poverty and hunger, and towards sustainable development. Together with the ability to review progress, effective monitoring offers countries vital information on which groups of people or areas of the country to focus resources on. Data can help crystallize government direction, and catalyse action among different actors, raising awareness of shared objectives and strengthening public participation.

The sheer weight of indicators, however, represents an immense challenge for countries. Four times greater in number than for the MDGs, indicators are also set to be disaggregated by gender, age, income, geography and occupation to reflect the 2030 Agenda's guiding principle of leaving no one behind.

While countries are chiefly responsible for gathering data, international agencies are lending assistance by strengthening national capacities and by ensuring that data are comparable and aggregated at subregional, regional and global levels.

Recognized for its experience and expertise in developing methods and standards for food and agriculture statistics, FAO is custodian UN

## FAO, AS CUSTODIAN AGENCY, IS:

- SUPPORTING GOVERNMENTS TO SET NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND TARGETS
- FOSTERING STRONG AND COHERENT INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENTS
- ENGAGING ALL ACTORS CONCERNED IN NATIONAL POLICY PROCESSES AND DIALOGUES, AND CONTRIBUTING TO INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS
- SUPPORTING NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTIONS TO PRODUCE GLOBAL AND NATIONAL INDICATORS
- SUPPORTING GOVERNMENTS TO REPORT ON CHALLENGES AND RESULTS
- CONTRIBUTING TO MOBILIZING RESOURCES IN SUPPORT TO NATIONAL EFFORTS
- CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF SDGs

agency for 21 SDG indicators, across SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15, and a contributing agency for six more – a significant increase on the four indicators the Organization was responsible for in the MDGs.

While developing indicators that can be disaggregated, adopted universally, and reported regularly and cost-effectively, FAO is at the forefront of innovations to collect and capture information, striking new partnerships and investing in novel equipment, from earth observation satellites to mobile devices to aerial drones.

# FAO CUSTODIANSHIP INDICATORS TABLE

INDICATOR		CUSTODIAN and PARTNERS	TIER
2.1.1	Prevalence of undernourishment	FAO	I
2.1.2	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	FAO	I
2.3.1	Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size	FAO, World Bank	III
2.3.2	Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status	FAO, World Bank	III
2.4.1	Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	FAO, UNE	III
2.5.1	Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in medium or long term conservation facilities	FAO, UNE	II
2.5.2	Proportion of local breeds, classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or unknown level of risk of extinction	FAO, UNE	II
2.a.1	The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures	FAO, IMF	II
2.c.1	Indicator of (food) price anomalies	FAO	II
5.a.1	(a) Percentage of people with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land (out of total agricultural population), by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure	FAO, UN-Women, EDGE, World Bank	II
5.a.2	Percentage of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control	FAO	III
6.4.1	Change in water use efficiency over time	FAO on behalf of UN-Water	III
6.4.2	Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	FAO on behalf of UN-Water	II
12.3.1	Global food loss index	FAO, UNE	III
14.4.1	Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	FAO	I
14.6.1	Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	FAO	III
14.7.1	Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in Small Island Developing States, least-developed countries and all countries	FAO (interim)	III
14.b.1	Progress by countries in adopting and implementing a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries	FAO	III
15.1.1	Forest area as a percentage of total land area	FAO, UNE	I
15.2.1	Progress towards sustainable forest management	FAO	II
15.4.2	Mountain Green Cover Index	FAO, UNE	II
<b>FAO AS CONTRIBUTING AGENCY</b>			
1.4.2	Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure	UN-Habitat, World Bank, FAO, EDGE, UN-Women, Landesa	III
1.5.2	Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)	UNISDR, FAO, UNE	II
2.a.2	Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector	OECD, FAO, WTO	I
14.c.1	Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in UNCLOS, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources	UN-DOALOS, FAO, ILO, IMO, UNEP, ISA	III
15.3.1	Percentage of land that is degraded over total land area	UNCCD, FAO, UNE	III
15.6.1	Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits	CBD, FAO, UNE	III

*The contents of this table may be subject to change as indicators are agreed and modified by countries.*

# SUPPORT TO POLICY-MAKING

With a broad mandate cutting across multiple SDGs, FAO is able to support countries create an enabling environment for implementing the 2030 Agenda.

UN specialized agencies that combine technical, monitoring and policy expertise are well positioned to support countries shape policies based on evidence, facilitate partnerships that scale up action, and promote multistakeholder participation for greater ownership of the SDGs.

Educated by experience, expertise and data, here is a snapshot of some of the many policy themes that FAO focuses on together with partners.

## ACCESS TO FINANCE

Assisting governments tailor policies and regulatory frameworks for rural financial inclusion; promoting innovation within financial sectors to reach the rural poor; and facilitating knowledge exchange and cooperation between countries.

## ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND BIODIVERSITY

Convening and hosting international fora and contributing to negotiations that strengthen policies on ecosystem services and biodiversity for food and agriculture.

## GENDER

Prioritizing policy actions that increase women's access to land and other productive resources, decent jobs, market opportunities, social protection and rural services.

## RESILIENCE IN PROTRACTED CRISES

Providing policy guidance, building partnerships and supporting programmes to strengthen livelihoods and food systems and reduce communities' exposure to crises.

## RURAL POVERTY REDUCTION

Offering evidence-based policy support and programme design for rural development, strengthening the capacity of producer organizations and rural institutions; and increasing investment in rural infrastructure and pro-poor services.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION

Working to incorporate social protection into national rural development policies, food security and nutrition strategies and investment plans; supporting government to design, implement and assess systems focused on benefitting the rural poor.

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Providing policy assistance aimed at enhancing both agricultural productivity and sustainability, including protecting crops, limiting chemical contamination, managing biodiversity and ecosystem services, and strengthening livelihoods.

## SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

Working with governments, fishery bodies and small-scale organizations to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, which promote a human-rights approach, addressing issues of gender, employment, climate change, disaster risks and trade.

## TRADE POLICY

Offering analysis on the possible consequences of trade policies, capacity development to improve understanding of international rules and their implications; neutral forums for dialogue between ministries of trade and agriculture; and assistance in preparing for trade negotiations and in implementing agreements.

## TENURE OF LAND, FISHERIES AND FORESTS

Supporting initiatives in over 47 countries to raise awareness, develop strategies, policies, legislation and programmes to improve tenure systems following adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests.

## RIGHT TO FOOD

Supporting countries to implement the Right to Food Guidelines by developing methodologies and analytical tools, helping to formulate and implement policies and programmes through capacity development, promoting global and regional governance of food security and nutrition, and facilitating partnerships with different stakeholders.

## NUTRITION AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Promoting norms, standards and frameworks, FAO advocates for policy change that contribute to healthy diets and sustainable food systems, including marketing regulations and economic incentives.

## FOOD LOSS AND FOOD WASTE

Offering technical support and policy guidance to countries along the entire food supply chain, from production, post-harvest, storage and processing to distribution and end consumers.

## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN AGRICULTURE

Improving risk governance across sectors; improving information and early warning systems; strengthening agricultural institutions and investment; building resilience; promoting capacity development; enhancing preparedness capacities for response and recovery; and applying the principle of building back better, all guided by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030).

*These are selected examples.*

For more information on FAO's policy work visit [www.fao.org/policy-support/en/](http://www.fao.org/policy-support/en/)

## FAO IS WORKING TOWARDS:

- PROVIDING EVIDENCE-BASED AND POLICY ADVICE TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS
- PROMOTING GUIDELINES, STANDARDS, GOOD PRACTICES
- FACILITATING POLICY DIALOGUE
- SUPPORTING COUNTRIES IN DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES
- REINFORCING THE CAPACITY OF ACTORS AND STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT
- MOBILIZING RESOURCES AND INVESTMENTS
- ADVANCING DATA GENERATION AT GLOBAL AND COUNTRY LEVEL
- BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIANCES

# REFERENCES

## TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD:

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



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## THE ADDIS ABABA ACTION AGENDA

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## THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2015

The Paris Climate Agreement



[http://unfccc.int/files/essential\\_background/convention/application/pdf/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf)

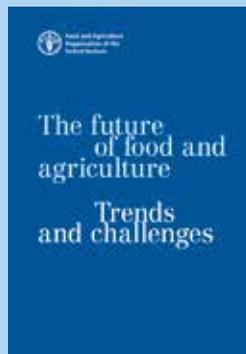
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## THE FUTURE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

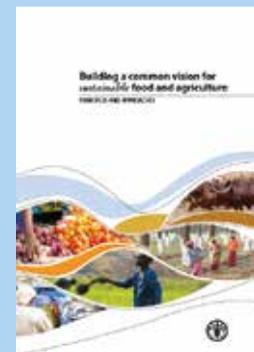
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## BUILDING A COMMON VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

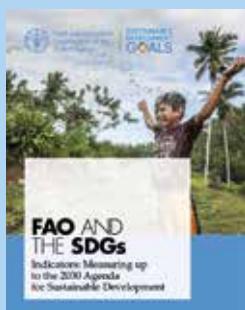
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## FAO AND THE SDGs

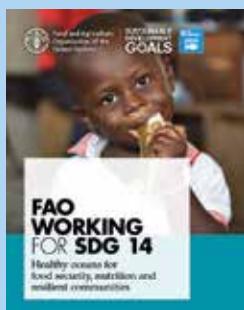
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## FAO WORKING FOR SDG 14

Healthy oceans for food security, nutrition and resilient communities



[www.fao.org/3/a-i7298e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7298e.pdf)

## FAO'S WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

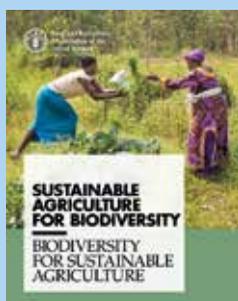
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## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FOR BIODIVERSITY

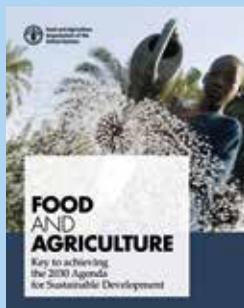
Biodiversity for sustainable agriculture



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## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



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## FAO SDGs WEBSITE



[www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/en/](http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/en/)

# FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Driving action across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Our planet faces multiple and complex challenges in the twenty-first century. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commits the international community to act together to overcome them and transform our world for present and future generations.

Focusing on food and agriculture, investing in rural people and transforming the rural sector – actions associated with the holistic vision of SDG2 – can speed progress towards all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This publication presents FAO's work to support countries reach SDG targets, highlighting the

crucial interlinkages between food, livelihoods and management of natural resources.

Featuring examples of country actions across the globe, it describes how FAO's long experience in shaping projects and policies founded on sustainability, expertise in monitoring and custodianship of SDG indicators, together with the Organization's focus on tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger, and capacity to build partnerships with development actors, can support governments construct the necessary enabling environment to achieve the 2030 Agenda.