

The FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme

Review of FAO/Italy Agricultural Development Projects

2006



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THE MANY INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO WITH THEIR CONTRIBUTION MADE THIS PUBLICATION POSSIBLE

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The FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme

Review of

FAO/Italy

Agricultural
Development
Projects

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A partnership to address new challenges



Among international organizations, FAO has traditionally been a focal point for Italy when deciding on implementing and promoting joint activities against hunger, poverty and malnutrition.

The fact is underlined by the FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme which started in 1982 and covers three traditional areas of activities: food security, sustainable rural development and policy assistance to developing countries. Over the years the Programme has become a model of multilateral collaboration, integrating and harmonizing the strategic priorities of FAO

and of Italian Development Cooperation in a joint commitment to achieving the Millennium development goals (MDGs).

I should like to stress that more recently cooperation between the two sides has extended to emergency and food security activities with the aim of responding to natural disasters and other situations of extreme need facing populations. Also worthy of mention is ongoing decentralized cooperation between Italy and FAO, which aims to encourage the participation of Italian local government bodies in FAO projects and promote synergies and complementarities between Italy and partner countries at local level.



This publication, the "White Book", which comes out with a new look this year, not only evidences the well-established collaboration between FAO and Italian Cooperation but also provides a synthesis of the programmes implemented under three different funding envelopes: voluntary annual multilateral contributions; special contributions to the Food Security Fund; and bilateral contributions.

Constant attention from both parties to the needs of developing countries has translated into initiatives aimed at identifying the structural causes responsible for food insecurity and into efforts at promoting participatory-based development strategies.

Trusting that this cooperation will grow stronger and benefit from past experience in drawing up joint intervention thrusts, I hope that this publication will not only represent a useful instrument for reflection on what has been achieved but also provide encouragement for the future.

Alain Giorgio Economides

Directorate General for Development Cooperation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs



FAO/Italy: together against hunger

This ANNUAL REPORT for the year 2006 continues an established tradition of providing a synthesis of multilateral and multilateral projects voluntarily funded by the Government of Italy in its longstanding fight against hunger and extreme poverty throughout the world.

This report is evidence of the close collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the country that has been its host for more than 50 years.

The Organization's appreciation goes to the Government of Italy for its long and enduring cooperation and support to FAO.

FAO and Italy are implementing a coherent and articulate programme of aid to development in more than 70 countries, either developing or in transition, the world over. Projects focus on three priority areas of activity: food security, the environment and sustainable development, and policy assistance and institutional support.

Since 1994, two hundred and ten projects have been implemented, for a total of 330 million US dollars.



The projects are directed at eliminating hunger, reducing poverty, protecting natural resources and giving support to countries with fragile economies where the population is threatened by chronic undernutrition. Help is also provided to local communities enabling them to develop their own capacities through the sharing of knowledge and expertise.

In the pages of this report it is hoped that the reader will gain new insights into what has been achieved and also new stimuli for future action, not forgetting that behind all the data and the numbers,

lies the hard work and personal commitment of hundreds of women and men who believe that building a fairer world is not only possible but necessary.

May this common endeavour continue and the fruitful cooperation between FAO and Italy gain new momentum.

Tesfai Teclé
*FAO Assistant Director-General
Technical Cooperation Department*



Introduction



Object of the review

Since 1988 an annual report is carried out to comprehensively and concisely set out the activities of the FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme. As in the past, this year's report covers projects financed through extra-budgetary resources received on an annual basis from the Government of Italy (multilateral scheme), specific projects financed through an ad hoc agreement (multi-bilateral scheme), projects implemented within the FAO Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety, and projects under the FAO/Italy Decentralized Cooperation Programme.



The FAO/Italy Agricultural Development Projects

FAO trainer talking to a class of small farmers on the way pesticides are absorbed by the root systems of plants

This issue of the report was prepared by the Italian Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS) through its Multilateral Service, 'Ufficio II', and FAO's Field Programme Development Service (TCAP).



The White Book
as a reference
guide of the
FAO/Government
of Italy
Programme



Audience

The report is intended to provide general information rather than to go into the technical details of projects. Such details are already available from FAO's technical and operations departments and may be found in individual project documents. This publication is meant to be used by officers of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs or of FAO who need a quick and concise reference guide to ongoing projects in the FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme. Other potential users are research institutions, universities and the media.



Structure of the review

As in previous issues, the report is divided into two parts: the first consists of an introduction which contains updated background information on the origins and scope of the FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme, a description of the Programme's development and management and a brief summary of the various initiatives by thematic area. Reference to emergency activities and to the APO programme is also provided.

The second part includes a collection of project profiles. Each profile provides a brief description of the initiative and includes information on its location and its financial commitment, together with a record of the project's objectives, activities and expected outputs. Only projects active in 2006 are included.

Profiles of completed projects, dating mostly from the early 1980s to 2005, are not included in this report but are available in previous issues.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations would like to express its appreciation to the staff of both the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Bureau II/DGCS) and FAO.



FAO/Government of Italy: an alliance rooted in the past

Origins and institutional arrangements

Since the establishment in 1979 of the Department General for Development Cooperation (presently Directorate General for Development Cooperation-DGCS) at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian Government, through its extra-budgetary contributions, has become a major source of funding for FAO's field programmes and projects. This underlines the Italian Government's commitment to supporting development issues within a multilateral framework.

Extra-budgetary resources, which are channelled through FAO's Trust Funds programme, embrace a range of funding modalities.

They include:

- > Government Cooperative Programme (GCP)
- > Food Security and Food Safety (GTFS)
- > Decentralized Cooperation Programme (GDCCP)
- > Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Operations Programme (OSRO) all financed by donor countries
- > Unilateral Trust Funds (UTFs) financed by developing countries
- > Associate Professional Officer (APO) Programme
- > Programmes financed by other United Nations bodies

1979:
Department
General for
Development
Cooperation
created at the
Ministry of
Foreign Affairs



*Above: "Sfera grande" by Arnaldo Pomodoro located outside the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Below: view of FAO Headquarters with, in the foreground, the Palatine ruins*



During the 1980s Italy became a major component of FAO's field operations. Between 1982 and 1993 Italy's voluntary contribution to FAO's Trust Funds Programme grew to a cumulative figure of US\$360 million to finance about 140 projects

Since 1982 the Italian Government has played a major role in the FAO/Government Cooperative Programme, through an annual voluntary financial contribution. The General Trust Fund Agreement, signed in April 1982, together with the Supplementary Agreement concluded in January 1985, provides the overall framework for the identification, selection and implementation of projects to be executed by FAO within the FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme.

At the outset, the Italian contribution to FAO was intended to pay for technical assistance missions, for the services of individual experts and the provision of equipment. During the 1980s, the FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme gained momentum in implementing projects and programmes in developing countries, not only in terms of the amount of the funds committed, but also as a result of the increased scope and quality of the programme.

The programme thus evolved gradually into a more structured policy dialogue whereby the development plans and priorities of FAO and the Italian Government came together in a more integrated and coherent manner. This programme presently covers three broad cooperation areas: Sustainable food and agricultural systems, Knowledge exchange and policy and Food security.

The FAO/Italy Consultative Committee on Development Cooperation, established in May 1984, has the broad mandate of annually overseeing the activities of the FAO/Italy Cooperative Programme and of providing policy guidance on priority areas of intervention, as well as of discussing technical and operational issues connected with furthering the partnership.



*Above:
Pakistani farmers
winnowing grain
Below:
rice farmers in the
Philippines take a pest
damage assessment test*

A coordinated approach and constant dialogue on programming priorities with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is maintained.

Programme's structure and size

Italy has maintained high its commitment to FAO's field development programme all throughout the 90s and into the new millenium.

Between 1994 and 2006 Italy's voluntary contribution amounted cumulatively to approximately US\$330 million for just over 200 projects.

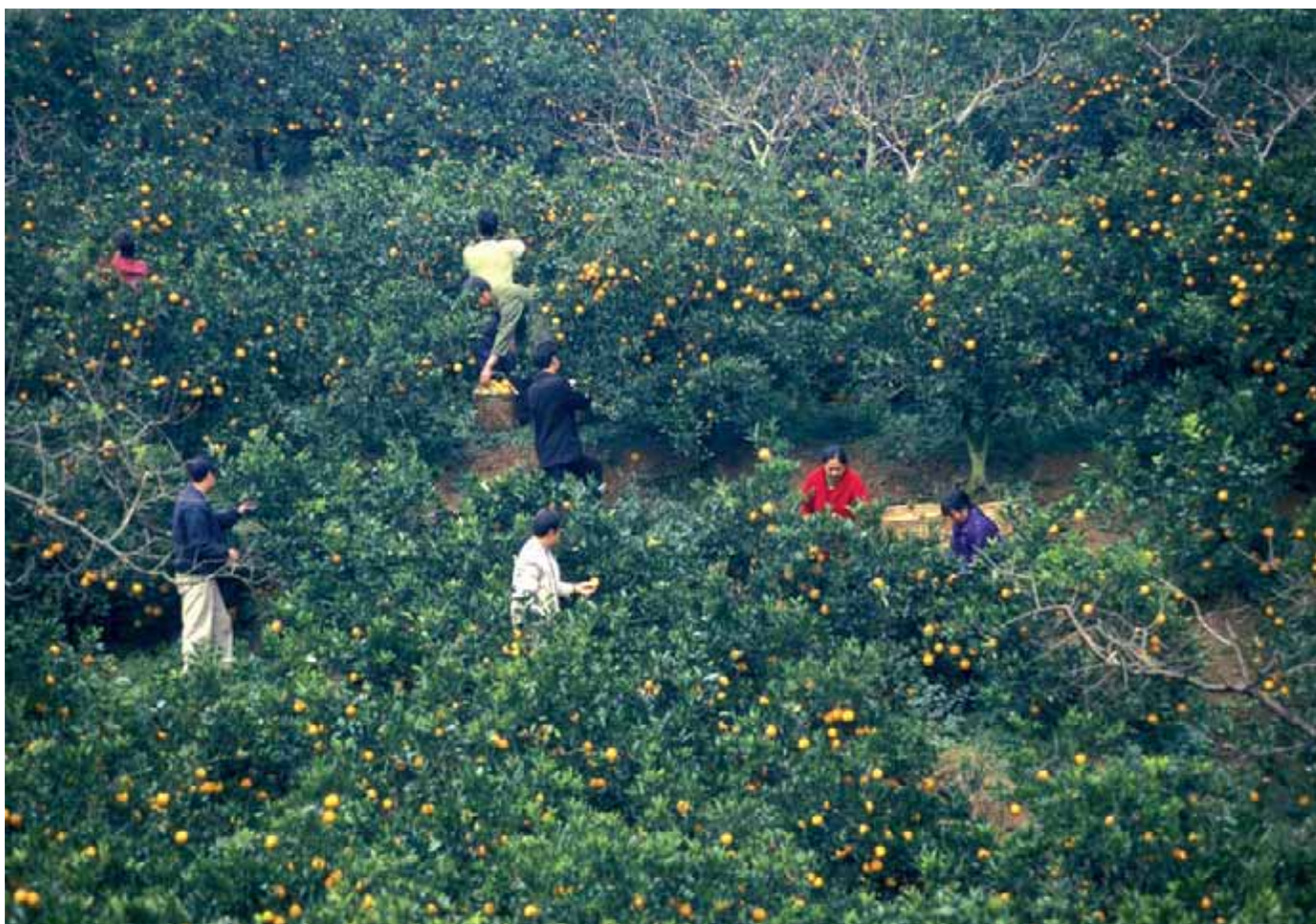
Over 50 percent of those projects are in Africa and the Mediterranean/Near East region.

In response to evolving priorities and needs and to new opportunities of partnership the collaboration between FAO and Italian Development Cooperation has considerably diversified in the last few years and now has five major components:

1. The FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme (GCP)

Also called the "Traditional Programme", it is the oldest existing programme. At present, 33 GCP projects in 26 countries are being implemented with a total budget of approximately US\$70 million.

The projects are executed under two different funding arrangements: multilateral and multilateral. Multilateral projects are financed directly through the annual voluntary Trust Fund contribution, which the Multilateral Service, within the DGCS, allocates to different international organizations. Projects financed with multilateral funds consist of initiatives





Gums, resins and honey production and marketing is an important aspect of rural income

FAO's Trust Fund for Food Security: to provide new impetus to the global fight against hunger

identified by the DGCS and developing countries. Through the DGCS, the projects are assigned to FAO for formulation, implementation and monitoring.

The Italian Government's annual contribution to this component in the last five years has averaged US\$15 million. At present the 2006 contribution stands at US\$13 million, of which US\$800,000 for activities to be implemented under the multilateral agreement.

2. FAO's Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety (GTFS)

FAO's Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety (GTFS) was established at the World Food Summit held in November 1996 to provide new impetus to the global fight against hunger. Italy was among the first FAO member countries to commit Euro 100 million to this fund, of which Euro 60 million has already been received.

In addition to developing sustainable means of increasing food availability and security, this fund focuses on the emergency prevention of transboundary annual and plant pests and diseases. The fund will also focus on the promotion of increased investment from national and international private sector in agriculture

and the rural sector. The programme's strategy is based on a regional/sub-regional approach aiming to promote regional integration at both economic and policy level.

3. The FAO/Government of Italy Decentralized Cooperation Programme (GDCP)

In September 2002, FAO and the General Directorate for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs signed an agreement establishing the Italy-FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme. The agreement aims at establishing cooperative networks that include local entities in developed and developing countries and focuses on practical objectives which often follow previous city-to-city arrangements.

Since the signature of the agreement, the Italian Government had contributed about US\$3 million. Resources were made available to support FAO's decentralized cooperation activities and also to co-finance specific projects with Italian local administrations. Cooperation agreements have been signed with the Regions of Tuscany, Piedmont, Veneto, Marche and Molise, the Provinces of Bolzano and Bologna, and the Municipalities of Rome, Milan, Florence and Reggio Emilia.



4. Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation activities

In recent years, floods, droughts, earthquakes and other natural disasters have shattered the lives of millions of people in the developing world. In many countries, armed conflicts have also caused widespread destruction and forced families to abandon their homes and farms. Assistance is required to restore local food production and this is where FAO plays a vital role. In the aftermath of natural disasters and conflicts, FAO, through its Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division, helps rural people not only to survive, but rebuild their lives.

Since 1994, Italy has funded 49 emergency relief and rehabilitation projects for a total of over US\$30 million. The majority of the projects, 37, are in Africa and receive a total of US\$20 million in funding. Currently Italy is funding 13 emergency projects, mostly in Africa but also in Latin America and in the countries affected by the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. It is worth noting that in 2005 the Italian Civil Protection Department contributed for the first time to FAO's emergency activities, allocating 3 million to FAO's post-tsunami rehabilitation activities in Sri Lanka.

5. The Associate Professional Officers Programme (APO)

The Associate Professional Officers Programme offers young professionals an opportunity to gain experience in development, international cooperation and the United Nations working environment. The Programme is based on the sponsorship of young professionals by their respective governments.

Since 1994, Italy has sponsored 33 young professionals, with nine APO positions currently funded. The coordination of new vacancies and assignments are the result of a constant dialogue on programming priorities with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Most Italian APOs are assigned to field projects to help enhance the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of FAO's field programme.

The participation of Italian Institutions in the FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme is considered a source of additional significance and prestige. It is important to underline the remarkable collaboration maintained with a number of Italian Institutions, such as the *Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale* (ISPI) (Institute for International Political Studies) in Rome, the *Istituto per le Relazioni tra l'Italia e i Paesi dell'Africa, America Latina e Estremo Oriente* (IPALMO) (Institute for Relations between Italy and Africa, Latin America and the Far East) in Rome, the *Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare* (Overseas Agronomic Institute) in Florence, the *Istituto Agronomico per il Mediterraneo* (Agronomic Institute for the Mediterranean) in Bari, the *Istituto Nazionale di Economia Agraria* (INEA) (National Agricultural Economics Institute) in Rome and, among many others, the Universities of Ancona, Turin and Viterbo.



Italian APOs assigned to field projects to enhance effectiveness of FAO field programme



A woman farmer collects pests and predators in a rice field

Building barriers (fences) to prevent advance of sand dunes



Programme's thematic areas



Working to promote the reduction of hunger and poverty, and in addressing issues concerning agriculture and the environment, FAO is committed to responding to immediate problems, such as consumer concerns about food safety, the threats posed by transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases, forest loss and degradation, over fishing, and natural and human-induced disasters. At the same time, the Organization must watch over the longer-term implications of issues such as climate change, the erosion of biodiversity, urbanization and changing consumption patterns.

An important reform process to achieve the Millennium development goals (MDGs)

In early 2005, FAO re-examined all of its development programmes and submitted a package of reform proposals to the Conference of FAO's Members, which met in November 2005. 'The aim of these proposals is to equip the Organization to play an increasingly effective role in assisting its Members in the areas of its mandate, and in contributing to the broader effort by the UN system to achieve all of the MDGs.'

FAO contributes to achieve all of the MDGs



FAO/Government of Italy: a joint effort in addressing common priorities

To achieve these aims, the reform proposals, as approved by the Conference, will:

- > Redefine the Organization's programmes so that they reflect more closely the principal thrusts of its work, bring together activities that are mutually reinforcing
- > Accentuate FAO's role as a knowledge, learning and capacity building organization with an important function in identifying, disseminating and promoting best practices
- > Concentrate FAO's global policy work on advocating for greater priority to sustainable agricultural and rural development and food security, and FAO's resource mobilization activities on raising the level of investment, from domestic and international sources, in the rural sector
- > Strengthen FAO's coordinating role in addressing major threats to crop, livestock fish, forest production and consumption
- > Amplify the Organization's impact by expanding alliances, partnerships and joint programmes with establishments having similar goals
- > Enhance responsiveness, transparency and communication with Members and all stakeholders



Against this background and in a joint effort in addressing common priorities the FAO/Government of Italy Development Programme has three main areas of activities:

- ① Sustainable food and agricultural systems
- ② Knowledge exchange and policy
- ③ Food security



Woman watering a communal garden. Home and communal gardens grow the quality vegetables that, once properly prepared to local taste, are the long-term solution to the problem of Vitamin A deficiency



1

Sustainable food and agricultural systems

Accounting for 45 percent of the entire allocations, the Sustainable food and agricultural systems sector plays a significant role in the FAO – Government of Italy Cooperative Programme. The Italian-funded projects in this sector are linking the issue of environmental degradation to sustainable development within the wider objective of enhanced food security.

The Sustainable food and agricultural systems, as foreseen in the reform, brings together many of the Organization's activities relating to the food chain – from crop, livestock and food production, through infrastructure and industries to ensuring

customer protection. Examples include follow up to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the prevention and eradication of transboundary pests and livestock and crops and the Codex Alimentarius Commission to name but a few.

It also emphasizes programmes that contribute to the responsible management and conservation of natural resources such as water, forests, fisheries, biodiversity and their sustainable use, as well as activities promoting research and technology development and dissemination and rural infrastructure.

FAO's Framework of Sustainable food and agricultural systems

Agriculture, biosecurity, nutrition and consumer protection

- > Crop and Livestock production systems management
- > Diseases and pests of animals and plants
- > Nutrition and consumer protection

Forestry

- > Forestry information, statistics, economics and policy
- > Forestry management, conservation and rehabilitation
- > Forest products and industry

Fisheries and aquaculture

- > information, statistics, economics, policy, management and conservation, products and industry

Natural resources, technology and sustainable development

- > Sustainable natural resources management
- > Technology, research and extension
- > Rural infrastructure and agro-industries





Water: a vital natural resource

Water is one of the most widely shared resources on the planet. Its role covers the whole range of human development and reaches across many borders: scientific, political, social, and cultural. Negotiating the allocation of transboundary waters has proven beneficial in stimulating social and political stability, economic prosperity and poverty alleviation.

Since its creation, FAO has delivered technical and advisory services to many international river basin organisations and continues to advocate for clear recognition of the role of agricultural water management in socio-economic development across these basins

In order to promote efforts to fulfil international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015, the United Nations General Assembly, in December 2003, proclaimed the years 2005 to 2015 as the "Water for Life" International Decade for Action.

UN-Water

UN-Water, the United Nations inter-agency mechanism grouping all relevant agencies, departments and programmes involved with water-related issues, is coordinating the "Water for Life" Decade. Its main purpose is to complement and

add value to existing programmes and projects by facilitating synergies and joint-efforts, so as to maximize coordinated action, coherence and effectiveness of the support provided to countries. After many years of extensive collaboration among the UN agencies water is presently to the top of the political agenda.

Livestock

The livestock sector is the fastest growing sector in agriculture. This is particularly true in developing countries (the so-called "livestock revolution").

Livestock forms an essential component of the entire "agricultural production systems approach" for sustainable agricultural and rural development policies promoted by FAO. The approach is based on the principle that the production of different commodities is often inter-linked and that increased production may encompass other agricultural sectors and generate aggregated output for the benefit of the whole agricultural system.

It also helps to meet rapidly increasing demand for livestock products and for food safety through good practices in production, processing and trade, while safeguarding the environment and minimizing risks to public health.

The UN General Assembly, in December 2003, proclaimed the years 2005 to 2015 as the 'Water for Life' International Decade for Action



Agricultural pests and diseases often migrate or spread across borders and cause major losses. Although control methods exist now against these pests and diseases, inability to contain the problem at an early stage may lead to an emergencies developing. In 1994 FAO established an Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases in order to minimize this risk.

Forestry, mountain development and biodiversity


Forests now cover nearly four billion hectares or 30 percent of the world's land area.. Forests have multiple functions, including conservation of biological diversity, soil and water, supplying wood and non-wood products. Forests are particularly important as carbon sinks: the amount of carbon stored in forest biomass alone is about 283 Gigatonnes (Gt) of carbon, roughly 50 percent more than the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. However, due to deforestation each year about 13 million hectares of the world's forests in particular in developing countries are lost. South America suffered the largest net loss of forests between 2000 and 2005 - around 4.3 million hectares per year - followed by Africa, which lost 4.0 million hectares annually. FAO is actively involved in the safeguard of forest fully aware the crucial role they have not only for the world environment but also for the socio-economic welfare of millions of people.

Particularly important are mountain forests. Over 130 mountain ranges exist in the world today. They provide most of its freshwater and because of its relative

Major transboundary livestock diseases, including Rinderpest and other epidemic animal diseases are among the most contagious and place a serious burden on the economies of the countries in which they occur



A disproportionate number of the world's undernourished people live in mountain areas



isolation and inaccessibility preserve one of the richest biodiversity on earth. Many species have disappeared from lowland areas, crowded out by human activities and exist nowhere else but on mountains. One in ten people lives in mountainous areas, yet often mountain people are among the world's poorest and hungriest. Empowering mountain people, providing greater economic opportunities and the means to sustainably manage their forest resources and biological diversity can help mountain communities alleviate poverty and achieve food security and promote peace and stability in mountain regions.

Fisheries

There has been a consistent downward trend since the 1950s in the proportion of marine fish stocks with potential for expanded production, coupled with an increase in the proportion classified as overexploited or depleted.

Stock depletion has implications for food security and economic development, reduces social welfare in countries around the world, and undermines the wellbeing of underwater ecosystems.

While recovery of depleted stocks is urgent, it is just as important to avoid depleting still-healthy stocks in the first place by matching fishing efforts to what

these stocks are capable of supporting. Strategies for rebuilding stocks include significantly decreasing or temporarily stopping fishing in overexploited fisheries, reducing degradation of underwater environments and actively rehabilitating damaged habitats.

Considering the limited progress achieved in the last decade in this respect, restoring depleted stocks to healthy biomass levels by 2015, a goal set at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, represents "a high-order" challenge, according to FAO.

Aquaculture may help reduce pressure on capture fisheries by reducing demand for wild fish and lowering prices, but that's only part of the solution.

Eleven years have passed since the adoption of the **FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries**, a non-binding instrument that provides a blueprint for responsible fishing practices. All 188 FAO Member states have committed to use the Code to strengthen their own fishing policies and improve international cooperation on fishing management. Over the last ten years countries and regional fisheries bodies around the world have drawn on the Code to improve fisheries management. Much progress has been made, but more still needs to be done to ensure a clear reversal of the negative trend of marine fish stocks.

Restoring fish stocks a high-order challenge



List of Projects in the field of Sustainable food and agricultural systems

- GCP/ALB/005/ITA** Agricultural Production Support in Albania
- GCP/BIH/002/ITA** Inventory of Post-War Situation of Land Resources in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- GCP/BOL/037/ITA** Strengthening of the Germoplasm Banks within the National System of Genetic Resources for Agriculture and Feeding in Bolivia
- GDCP/BRA/001/ITA** Support to the Water Control Component of the 'Fome Zero' Programme in the Area of Dois Irmaos, Brazil
- GCSP/CMB/009/ITA** Integrated Irrigation Development Project in Battambang Province in Support of SPFS in Cambodia
- GCP/GHA/029/ITA** Establishment of a Tomato Processing Promotion Centre in Ghana
- GTFS/INT/907/ITA** Controlling Transboundary Animal Diseases in Central Asian Countries
- GCP/LAO/013/ITA** Improvement and Development of Fruit and Vegetable Crops in Lao PDR
- GCP/NEP/056/ITA** Promotion of Olive Production and Consumption in Nepal
- GCP/NER/044/ITA** Promotion of Decentralized Cooperation in Niger in the Field of Animal Products and Livestock Industries
- GCP/PHI/050/ITA** Environmental Animal Health to Redress Emerging Insect-borne and other Disease Constraints to Smallholders' Livestock Production in the Philippines
- GTFS/RAF/387/ITA** Acacia Operation - Support to Food Security, Poverty Alleviation and Soil Degradation Control in the Gums and Resins Producer Countries
- GTFS/REM/070/ITA** Regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme in the Near East
- GTFS/RER/017/ITA** Integrated Pest Management for Western Corn Rootworm in Central and Eastern Europe
- GDCP/RWA/014/MUL** Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture in Kigali, Rwanda
- GCP/SYR/010/ITA** Participatory and Integrated Forest Fires Management Plan
- GCP/TUN/028/ITA** Soil and water Conservation Programme in the Governorates of Kairouan, Siliana and Zaghuan, Tunisia
- GCP/TUN/030/ITA** Upgrade of Refrigeration Infrastructure in the Fishing Ports of Tunisia
- GCP/VIE/027/ITA** Capacity Building, Extension, Demonstration and Support for the Development of Market-Oriented Agroforestry in Quang Nam Province, Viet Nam
- GCP/VIE/029/ITA** Integrated Management of Lagoon Activities in Thua Thien Hue Province, Viet Nam



2 Knowledge exchange and policy

FAO's framework of knowledge exchange, policy and advocacy

Economic and social development

- > Leveraging resources and investment
- > Food and agriculture policy
- > Trade and marketing
- > Agriculture information and statistics

Alliances and rural livelihoods

- > Alliances and advocacy initiatives against hunger and poverty
- > Gender and equity in rural societies
- > Rural livelihoods

Knowledge exchange, communication and capacity building

- > Knowledge exchange and capacity building
- > Information technology systems
- > Communication and public information

This main area of activity brings together economic and social development programmes highlighting the importance attached to enhancing the Organization's activities in support of knowledge exchange and capacity building.

Programmes in the area of Economic and social development will continue to provide the analytical and statistical underpinning for policy assistance. They will encourage cooperation among centres of excellence to explore frontier knowledge as well as the lessons from historic and geographic experiences of agricultural development and the interface between the primary sector and the other components of the macro-economy.

Areas of work also include long-term perspective studies, reporting on the state of food and agriculture and of food insecurity, trade and marketing issues, the economics of food and agricultural systems, and statistics, all of which will be drawn upon to furnish policy advice and capacity-building assistance. Support to

member countries' participation in the international trading system will continue and will be reinforced, particularly through capacity-building and training initiatives.

The thematic focus of capacity-building activities vary over time, but one of the underlying objectives is to offer training opportunities related to themes of major and emerging significance. The main areas of focus include:

- > fellowships - adopting a proactive approach to identifying and filling fellowship opportunities for postgraduate and work-related training
- > setting up learning programmes on policy, with some using distance-learning systems, targeted at senior policy-makers and analysts
- > extending the availability of adult education opportunities for rural people, including farmers' field school programmes and other extension methods
- > theoretical and practical courses on production, conservation, storage and processing of agricultural products for extension staff, ensuring a multiplier effect through training of trainers.

The set of programmes under Alliances and rural livelihoods responds to the importance of engaging with a wide spectrum of stakeholders, within member countries as well as at international level, in order to amplify the Organization's impact, recognizing that success in achieving the MDGs will depend not only on the actions of governments but also on those of non-government actors and peoples' organizations. Work under this heading will





involve mainstreaming attention to gender issues, equity in rural society, community and child nutrition, as well as the special needs of indigenous peoples.

These important activities will be closely associated with support to rural peoples' organizations and addressing the issues of rural employment. Partnerships and joint programmes will be particularly crucial in these areas, which address various MDGs and cut across the mandates of a number of UN organizations.

The imperative for FAO of adopting a more proactive approach to creating and sharing knowledge and best practices within the Organization and with Members and other centres pervades all of FAO's substantive programmes.

Rural women and girls usually have less access than men to information and to new technologies. Without equal access to information, they are at a disadvantage in making informed choices about what to produce and when to sell their products. On the other hand, if women gain access to information technologies, they will benefit from increased educational opportunities and channels for better networking. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are no longer considered a luxury but an essential instrument for achieving sustainable development.

In the context of rural communities the challenges faced here include access to infrastructure, training and relevant content in local languages as well as ensuring that the needs of rural areas are reflected in national ICT policy.



Information
Communication
Technologies
(ICTs): a tool to
share and
disseminate
good practices in
cross-cutting
issues



List of Projects in the field of Knowledge exchange and policy



- GCP/BOL/034/ITA** Information, Communication and Training for Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Agriculture in Bolivia
- GCPS/ERI/002/ITA** Strengthening and Expansion of the National Food Information System in Eritrea
- GCP/ERI/006/ITA** Strengthening the Agricultural Research and Extension Division in Eritrea
- GCP/INT/825/ITA** Promoting, Coordinating and Implementing Observance of the International Year of the Mountains - 2002
- GCP/INT/847/ITA** Capacity Building in Education for Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security
- GCP/INT/927/ITA** Assistance to the NEPAD Member Countries in the Review/Update of National Strategies for Food Security and Agricultural Development, and the Preparation of Medium-term Investment Programmes and Bankable Projects in Support of the CAADP Implementation
- GTFS/INT/928/ITA** Support to Regional Economic Organizations (REOs) for the Implementation of their Regional Programmes for Food Security
- GCP/INT/934/ITA** Topic Centre for the Global Land Cover Network (GLCN) – A Blueprint for Land Cover and Land Cover Dynamic
- GCP/INT/938/ITA** Facility for Sustainable Development and Policy Implementation Assistance
- GCP/INT/944/ITA** Strengthening Partnership on Education for Rural People
- GCP/INT/945/ITA** Information Products for Decisions on Water Policy and Water Resources Management in the Nile Basin
- GCP/INT/969/ITA** Development of a Methodology to Monitor Water Policies
- GTFS/INT/974/ITA** Strengthening Civil Society Involvement in Agricultural and Food Security Policies and Programmes: Achieving Food Security and Food Sovereignty
- GCP/INT/981/ITA** Support to the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) - GTOS Secretariat – a Regular Programme Support Mechanism for Improved Information on the State of the Environment
- GCP/SYR/006/ITA** Agricultural Planning and Policy Analysis in Syria
- GCP/SYR/011/ITA** Institutional Development of Organic Agriculture in Syria



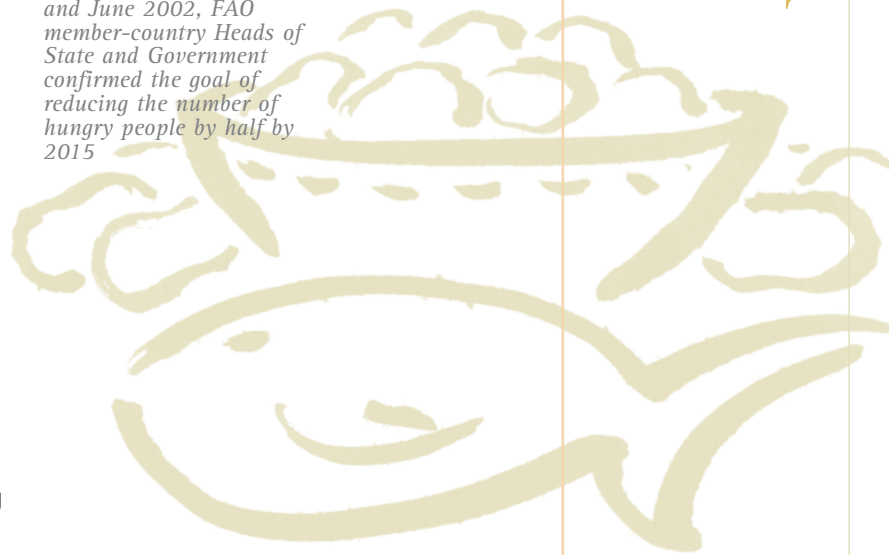
3 Food security

Further to the two World Food Summits of November 1996 and June 2002, this main area of activity has become an important part of cooperation. Within FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme, Food security projects account for 27 percent of the total budget. Due to the diversified character of food security its achievement depends on a number of underlying causes, like the empowerment of people, the equitable distribution of income, the support of research and extension. This sector is therefore strongly linked to the other two thematic areas covered by the contribution of the Government of Italy.

In most low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCs) viable and sustainable means of increasing food availability exist but are not realized because of a range of constraints that prevent farmers from meeting their basic needs and from seizing opportunities that arise. By working with



During the two World Food Summits of November 1996 and June 2002, FAO member-country Heads of State and Government confirmed the goal of reducing the number of hungry people by half by 2015





farmers and other stakeholders to identify and overcome such constraints - whether they are of a technical, economic, social, institutional or of a policy nature - FAO's aims at opening the way for improved productivity and broader access to food in LIFDCs and in small island states.

Projects to be funded under this area cover two interlinked approaches one focusing on production gains and one on access to food. Significant agriculture production gains can be obtained through the introduction of simple, low-cost changes in technology such as introduction of small-scale water control, use of organic and inorganic fertilizers, introduction of improved crop varieties, diversification in small animal production, artisanal fisheries and aquaculture and control of post-harvest losses.

In addition an important aspect of food security is also finding ways to improve poor people's access to food which address the needs of a country as a whole in a more holistic and comprehensive way. New directions include locally supplied school meals, food for work schemes and capacity-building activities to improve in a sustainable way agriculture production.

One fundamental aspect behind this area of activity is that it is not a stand-alone initiative but it is channelled through national governments, to develop well-planned National Food Security Programmes and through regional economic organizations to develop Regional Programmes for Food Security which optimize regional conditions for attaining food security in areas like trade policy.



List of Projects in the field of Food security

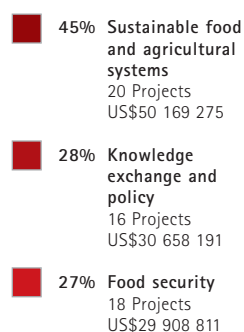
- GCSP/ANG/005/ITA** Rehabilitation of Food Security in the Province of Bengo, Angola. A Joint FAO-IFAD-WFP Initiative
- GDCP/BRA/002/ITA** Micro-garden Technologies for Improved Food Security in Selected Districts of the City of Teresina in the State of Piaui, Brazil
- GTFS/DOM/010/ITA** Promotion of Food Security in the CARICOM/CARIFORUM Region - Dominican Republic
- GCSP/ETH/057/ITA** Special Programme for Food Security in Ethiopia - Irrigation Component
- GTFS/ETH/067/ITA** Crop Diversification and Marketing Development Project in Ethiopia
- GCSP/GAM/021/ITA** Special Programme for Food Security in The Gambia
- GCSP/GUA/011/ITA** Institutional Support to National Policies and Programmes for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation in Guatemala
- GCSP/GUI/015/ITA** Special Programme for Food Security in Guinea
- GTFS/HAI/018/ITA** Promotion of Food Security in the CARICOM/CARIFORUM Region - Haiti
- GTFS/MAR/003/ITA** Preparation of a Feasibility Study for Cross-border Investments by Mauritian Operators to Foster Agribusiness in the SADC Region
- GTFS/MOZ/076/ITA** National Special Programme for Food Security in Mozambique
- GTFS/PAL/022/ITA** West Bank and Gaza Strip: Agricultural Revitalization Programme
- GTFS/RAF/391/ITA** Improvement of Food Security in Cross-border Districts of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda in Support of the Modernization of Agriculture under NEPAD Framework
- GTFS/RAF/394/ITA** Enhancing Food Security in Cassava-Based Farming Systems in Malawi and Zambia
- GTFS/RAS/198/ITA** Support to the Regional Programme for Food Security in the Pacific Island Countries
- GTFS/RLA/141/ITA** Regional Programme for the Promotion of Food Security in the CARICOM/CARIFORUM Region
- GDCP/SEN/001/ITA** Support to Decentralized Management for Food Security and the Fight against Poverty in the District of Sedhiou, Senegal
- GDCP/SEN/002/ITA** Consolidation of Micro-gardens for the Improvement of Food Security in Dakar, Senegal



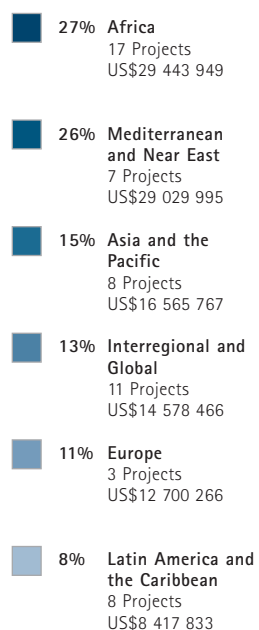
Distribution data of FAO/Government of Italy Development Projects



Total ongoing projects by
THEMATIC AREAS



Total ongoing projects by
GEOGRAPHIC AREAS



TOTAL ONGOING PROJECTS BY THEMATIC AREAS

Thematic area	N. of Projects	Budget (in US\$)	Percentage
Sustainable food and agricultural systems	20	50 169 275	45%
Knowledge exchange and policy	16	30 658 191	28%
Food security	18	29 908 811	27%
Total	54	110 736 276	100%

TOTAL ONGOING PROJECTS BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

Geographic area	N. of Projects	Budget (in US\$)	Percentage
Africa	17	29 443 949	27%
Asia and the Pacific	8	16 565 767	15%
Europe	3	12 700 266	11%
Interregional and Global	11	14 578 466	13%
Latin America and the Caribbean	8	8 417 833	8%
Mediterranean and Near East	7	29 029 995	26%
Total	54	110 736 276	100%

TOTAL ONGOING PROJECTS BY COUNTRIES

Country	N. of Projects	Budget (in US\$)	Percentage
Regional and interregional/global	19	41 327 419	37,3%
Tunisia	2	13 435 242	12,1%
Syrian Arab Republic	3	11 112 120	10,0%
Albania	1	7 002 112	6,3%
Eritrea	2	5 549 229	5,0%
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	2	4 866 110	4,4%
Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	3 438 154	3,1%
Mozambique	1	3 396 700	3,1%
Kingdom of Cambodia	1	3 268 302	3,0%
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam	2	3 156 110	2,9%
Republic of Angola	1	1 771 450	1,6%
Palestinian Territories	1	1 500 000	1,4%
Bolivia	2	1 466 146	1,3%
Nepal	1	1 042 419	0,9%
Republic of the Philippines	1	1 006 830	0,9%
Republic of Guinea	1	999 965	0,9%
Senegal	2	900 000	0,8%
Republic of Ghana	1	899 598	0,8%
Rwanda	1	817 940	0,7%
Lao PDR	1	749 980	0,7%
Guatemala	1	727 551	0,7%
Republic of the Gambia	1	604 999	0,5%
Haiti	1	500 000	0,5%
Brazil	2	450 000	0,4%
Dominican Republic	1	300 000	0,3%
Republic of Niger	1	230 000	0,2%
Mauritius	1	217 900	0,2%
Total	54	110 736 276	100%



The background of the cover is a solid yellow color. On the right side, there is a close-up, high-angle photograph of a wheat stalk, showing the individual grains and the stem. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the wheat. The overall aesthetic is clean and agricultural.

The FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme

Project profiles

2006





GCP/GHA/029/ITA

Establishment of a Tomato Processing Promotion Centre in Ghana

Thematic area:
Sustainable food and agricultural systems

In the Republic of Ghana 60 percent of the population lives in rural areas and an almost exclusive smallholder system predominates in the agricultural sector. In fact, smallholder farms produce 80 percent of the total agricultural production using mainly labour-intensive technology. Agricultural production consists mainly of cereals, industrial and tree crops, and some non traditional crops such as fruits, vegetables and root crops for export only. General average yields are low and reflect the low intensity of agricultural production in Ghana.

Tomato is probably the most important vegetable grown in the country. Nevertheless, data collected by the Statistic Researcher and Information Department of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture indicates that the yield of tomato varieties grown in the country is exceptionally low. The source of water such as rainfall, irrigation, wells and riverbeds determine both the season of farming and the number of times farming is undertaken within the year.

Post harvest and processing of agricultural produce is certainly one of the sectors that offer higher potential of development and income generation. In such a context the Government of Ghana and the Government of Italy, with the technical support from FAO, aim at further promoting the development of the agricultural sector as a policy orientation to ameliorate food security and food production and contribute to poverty reduction.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Tomato growers
- > Rural communities
- > Entrepreneurs in the sector

■ Objectives

1. Poverty reduction and income generation for rural households



2. Reduced food losses
3. Increased Knowledge of the Tomato Business
4. Establishment of a Pilot Plant for Tomato Processing
5. Promotion of Tomato Processing

■ Strategies

- > Establishment of a tomato processing promotion centre (TPPC) and coordinate and undertake several activities including:
 - (i) selection and sourcing of improved tomato varieties and seeds
 - (ii) technical support in the promotion of proper agronomic practices, in tomato processing, in product development, in process development quality control, in marketing and in sale
 - (iii) training activities; building knowledge base through studies, data collection, and production trials
 - (iv) processing of tomato and marketing of tomato products
- > Selection and sourcing of improved tomato varieties and seeds

Overall Objective:
Contribute to improve farm income and food security

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$899 597

Participating countries:
Republic of Ghana

Duration:
2 years
From 01 Jul 2004 to 30 Jun 2006



- > Promotion of proper agronomic practices, tomato processing, product development, process development, quality control, marketing and sale
- > Training of farmers and technicians in charge of processing and control of the tomato culture techniques, in accordance with the European quality standards
- > Processing of tomato and marketing of tomato products
- **Expected results**
 - > Increased knowledge of the tomato business
 - > Promotion of tomato processing
 - > Poverty reduction and income generation for rural households
 - > Improvement of food security
 - > Establishment of a tomato processing promotion centre as research resource and to provide needed information, know-how, and database to farmers and potential processors
- **Ongoing results**
 - > Improve the skills and capacity of rural communities in their undertaking and management of commercial crop production
 - > Activities to reduce food losses and to promote income generation
 - > Strengthen the capacities of national expertise
 - > Training activities will include:
 - (i) identification of good practices related to the processing, manufacturing and trading of the product
 - (ii) processors on quality standards
 - (ii) Introduction of high-yielding varieties; these activities are critical for the success of this initiative and contribute in reducing post-harvest losses. These activities are also very important for the overall sustainability of tomato processing in the country





GCP/NER/044/ITA

Promotion of Decentralized Cooperation in Niger in the Field of Animal Products and Livestock Industries

Thematic area:
Sustainable food and agricultural systems

Despite the many efforts done by the Government of Niger more than 60 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Livestock raising remains the principal agricultural activity.

To revitalize the agricultural sector, the Government of Niger is pushing to create employment in animal production, especially targeting women and rural youth.

An opportunity to address these issues is offered by project GCP/NER/044/ITA funded by the Government of Italy.

The project, planned for two years, will contribute to relaunch the animal sector in the country through the implementation of micro projects based on the empowerment of the grassroot communities. This will in turn create job opportunities and stop emigration of the rural youth.

Through the project, Niger will acquire a crucial role in animal production and will collaborate more efficiently at regional level in organizations such as the Economic and monetary West African union (Union économique et monétaire ouest Africaine – UEMOA) or the Economic community of West African states (ECOWAS).

■ Beneficiaries

- > Women
- > Young of rural areas
- > Farmers
- > Pastoralists

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to create sustainable income generating activities in animal production and animal industry for women and the rural youth and contribute to the fight against poverty. This will stop the emigration of the rural youth and will contribute to the implementation of sub-



regional economic activities, among the UEMOA and ECOWAS member states.

The specific objectives are:

1. Elaboration of a framework paper on decentralization in Niger, including a detailed description of the approach to be applied and the activities to be implemented
2. Strengthening of livestock industries and the implementation of livestock trade between Ghana, Niger and Italy
3. Establishment of 100 small animals development units, dealing with transformation and commercialization of livestock products

■ Strategies

- > Creation of working opportunities in the livestock sector especially targeting women and rural youth
- > Promotion of the livestock sector in the country through the implementation of micro-projects based on the strengthen of grassroot communities

Overall Objective:
Create sustainable income generating activities in animal production and animal industry

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$230 000

Participating countries:
Republic of Niger

Duration:
2 years
From 01 Oct 2005
to 08 Sep 2007



■ **Expected results**

- > Creation of working opportunities in the livestock sector especially targeting women and rural youth
- > Stop emigration of the rural youth
- > Better organization of trade among Niger and neighbouring countries in the livestock sector
- > Identification, preparation and establishment of 100 micro-projects

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Creation of working opportunities in the livestock sector especially targeting women and rural youth
- > Diversification of agricultural production of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), which also develop small animal breeding and job creation in the rural sector
- > Development of small animal breeding and creation of job opportunities in the rural sector
- > Relaunch of the livestock sector in the country through the implementation of micro-projects based on the strengthen of grassroot communities





GTFS/RAF/387/ITA

Acacia Operation - Support to Food Security, Poverty Alleviation and Soil Degradation Control in the Gums and Resins Producer Countries

Thematic area:
Sustainable food and agricultural systems

Gum arabic, myrrh and frankincense are abundant in the Sahel region of sub-Saharan Africa. These local resources present the way forward to sustainable management and development of the Sahel regions, which naturally have fewer options due to difficult environmental conditions. However, irregularity of supply accompanied by fluctuating prices and variable quality from some sources results in unfavorable long-term effects on the demand of these commodities. As a result, producing countries are experiencing problems in relation to commercialization and ensuring a value-added product in relation to international markets. A coordinated strategy among producer countries and partners is therefore needed to capitalize on the existing opportunities and address the constraints. In fact a coordinated strategy will enable producing countries to have better control of the international trade and share different experience in the area of production, processing, quality control and marketing.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Rural population and peasant communities living in pre-desert areas of the region
- > Local authorities
- > Private sector
- > Specific concerned institutions
- > Consumers

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to strengthen the production methodologies, the processing, and the market of the products.

The specific objectives are:

1. Strengthened analytical and operational capacity of six pilot countries to address food security and desertification



1. Contribute to the improvement of the agro-pastoral systems and the sustainable development of the gums and resins sectors
2. Contribute to the fight against desertification

■ Strategies

- > Develop training materials and technical documents
- > Enhance the production of gums and resins
- > Improve management of the natural resources
- > Support to the rural population to establish appropriate agro-pastoral systems
- > Reinforce national capacities at governmental, industrial, and consumer level to develop appropriate policies for the gums and resins sectors
- > Improve exchanges in the cooperation and technological sectors

■ Expected results

- > Formulation of a ten-year programme for gums and resins producing countries

Overall Objective:
To contribute to sustainable development, to food security, and to the fight against desertification

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$4 690 057

Participating countries:
Burkina Faso, Chad, Kenya, Niger, Senegal, Sudan

Duration:
3 years and 6 months
From 05 Nov 2003 to 04 May 2006



- > Improve the agro-pastoral production system
 - > Increase of the rural income originated from the growth of the gum and resin market
 - > Improvement of the gums and resins domestic market through streamlining of the supply chain from producers to exporters
 - > Improvement of the food security
 - > Elaboration of information and databank on production and commercialization of gums and resins
 - > Creation of a data base on the production and commercialization of gums and resins at regional and sub-regional level
 - > Identification of indicators of the living conditions of the rural populations with reference to food, water supply, and health and economic development
 - > Annual rehabilitation of about 1500 hectares of marginal and degraded land in each participating country
- **Ongoing results**
 - > Enhanced value to local resources, increasing household incomes in rural area
 - > Establishment of agro-silvo-pastoral systems helps farmers and shepards in food and folder production
 - > Participation of rural women and children in the collection, processing, and marketing of products
 - > Establishment of a number of associations for the commercialization and production of gums and resins
 - > Direct involvement of about 350 000 of the poorest stakeholders in the rehabilitation of the degraded areas and the establishment of production systems.





GDCP/RWA/014/MUL

Project of Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture in Kigali, Rwanda

Thematic area:
Sustainable food and agricultural systems

The project aims at assisting the Government of Rwanda in improving the livelihood of low income households of the Kigali Municipality by improving the capacity of the community associations in developing and implementing agricultural projects. This will help to ensure improved food security and nutrition, guaranty employment and income for the targeted poor and vulnerable population. Activities are implemented through the FAO/Italy Decentralized Cooperation Programme in partnership with the local authorities of the city of Kigali and the Municipality of Rome.



■ Beneficiaries

- > Community associations of low income farmers
- > Women
- > Youth groups

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to assist the Government of Rwanda in improving the livelihood of low income households of the Kigali Municipality.

The specific objectives are:

1. Enhance the capacity of the Government to find solutions to reduce food insecurity.
2. Improve the livelihood of urban population by increasing employment opportunities, agricultural production and income
3. Increase the acreage of suitable areas for agriculture and agroforestry

■ Strategies

- > Rehabilitation of technical infrastructure and strengthening of human resource capabilities
- > Utilization of participatory approach to increase awareness of farming communities and ownership by local associations

- > Training of selected technicians in participative approach for integrated urban and peri-urban agriculture
- > Participation of community associations in Farmers Field Schools
- > Diversification of agricultural production
- > Protection of the environment

■ Expected results

- > Better identification, rehabilitation and reclamation of marshlands for agricultural production
- > Establishment and rehabilitation of anti-erosion system through countour planning, terracing of hilly areas and, forestry and agroforestry activities for the improvement of sustainable environmental conditions
- > Rehabilitation of technical infrastructure including small irrigation system and essential field equipment
- > Enhanced capacity of technical and operational staff at the district level and at the level of community associations
- > Increased acreage for agricultural production and enhanced opportunities for commercialisation

Overall Objective:
Assisting the city of Kigali in improving the livelihood of low income households

Donor:
Government of Italy

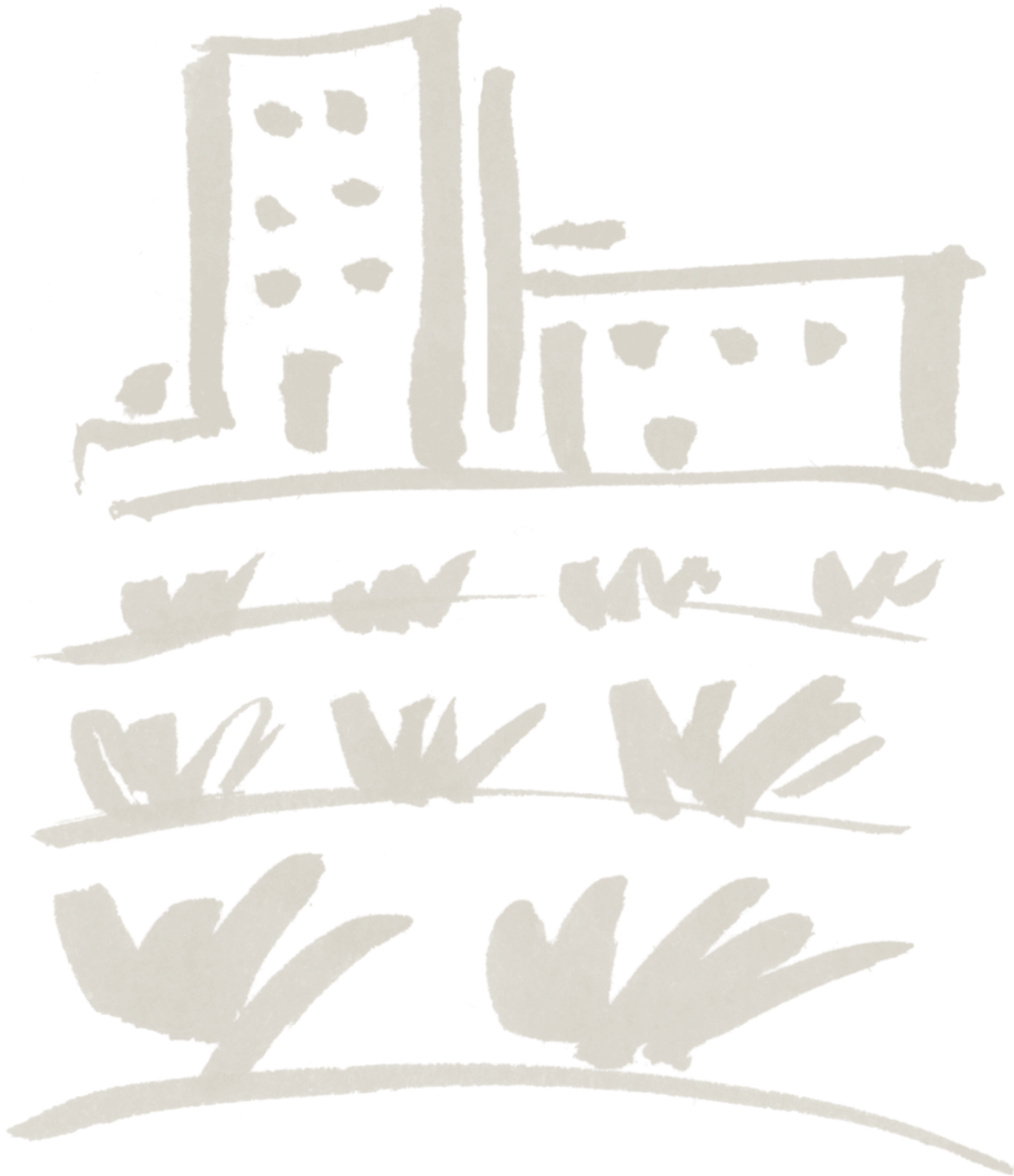
Contribution:
US\$817 940

Participating countries:
Rwanda

Duration:
3years
From 01 Dec 2003
to 31 Dec 2006



- > Enhanced opportunities for employment and for income generation in the area of crop and animal production and related off-farm activities
 - > Increased availability and regular supply of agricultural products for the need of urban population and the market.
- **Ongoing results**
 - > Better access to rehabilitated swampy and hilly areas made suitable for agricultural production
 - > Acquisition of adequate infrastructure and essential equipment for agricultural production
 - > Participation in training sessions, field days and demonstrations, and Farmers Field Schools
 - > Development of micro projects to access additional





GCPS/ERI/002/ITA

Strengthening and Expansion of the National Food Information System in Eritrea

Thematic area:
Knowledge exchange and policy

Recognizing the development of a reliable food information system as a condition sine qua non to effective planning of food security interventions and relief operations, the Government of the State of Eritrea established in 1993 a National early warning and food information unit, which later evolved into the National food information system (NFIS).

As a member of the Inter-Governmental authority on development (IGAD), Eritrea has benefited since 1993 from the support provided by the regional project GCPS/RAF/256/ITA 'IGAD Early Warning and Food Information System' funded by the Government of Italy. The project set up the basis for the implementation of a regional food information system, and for the creation and/or strengthening of information units at the national level. The project's final evaluation report pointed out that, in Eritrea, the food information system and the institutional arrangements for the effective coordination of the system still needed assistance.

Following the completion of this regional project, and upon request of Eritrea, a follow-up was designed, as a national programme to support IGAD countries to strengthen their food information systems. In January 1997 the present Italian funded FAO project GCPS/ERI/002/ITA was declared operational. The project encountered some delays due to the border conflict. Following the recommendations of a Tripartite Meeting held in Asmara in October 1999, a second phase of project GCPS/ERI/002/ITA was formulated and approved for funding by the Government of Italy in September 2000. The end of the activities is foreseen in August of 2006.



■ Beneficiaries

- > Food insecure vulnerable people, in particular women and children
- > Populations living in drought affected areas

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to assist the Government of Eritrea in realizing an efficient and sustainable food information system which contribute to the reduction of chronic food insecurity and food vulnerability of Eritrean people at national, community and household level.

The specific objectives are:

1. Provision of a clear understanding of the degree and nature of food insecurity and vulnerability, as an input for appropriate and timely actions
2. Production and dissemination at national and sub-national levels of high quality food security information outputs aimed at planning development intervention
3. Improvement in human resources capacity at national and sub-national levels to collect, process, analyse, interpret and disseminate food security information

Overall Objective:
Putting in place an efficient government-owned food information system

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$2 561 237

Participating countries:
Eritrea

Duration:
9 years and 7 months
From 12 Jan 1997 to 31 Aug 2006



4. Strengthening of institutional structures at national, regional (Zoba) and sub-regional (sub-Zoba) levels needed for an efficient, effective and sustainable national food information system

■ **Strategies**

- > Launching of a monthly newsletter ('NFIS Monthly Food Outlook') and a decadal meteorological information newsletter ('Dekadal Agro-meteorology bulletin')
- > Regular distribution of newsletter in electronic or paper version to different users such as the regional information network and media to sensitize people on the main food security issues of the country
- > Creation of the NFIS-Forum, a discussion platform for groups or individuals to discuss food security issues or raise questions about food security in the country through the Internet
- > Introduction of a new methodology which combines information on plants with those of the 'Africover' project database, resulting in a better analysis on the timely alert in agriculture

■ **Expected results**

- > High quality information on food security to identify emergencies, vulnerable groups, to monitor the distribution of food products and other humanitarian interventions, to evaluate the food imports, to formulate food strategies and make programmes for food security at national and sub-national level
- > Progress in the agro-meteorological sector replacing, in the field of plant images, the traditional satellite images with high resolution images
- > Use of information on nutritional state, distribution of food resources for vulnerable groups, foodstuffs, prices and donor answers to emergencies

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Introduction of remote sensing and satellite image interpretation for rainfall and vegetation monitoring, and the crop/livestock annual assessment activities
- > Development of an adequate information systems to be carried out through the creation of workgroups from the member institutions to ensure the sustainability of the activities
- > Comprehensive analysis of the livelihoods system at zoba level, described in the document, 'Baseline Study on Livelihoods System in Eritrea'
- > Creation of the NFIS-Forum, a discussion platform for groups or individuals to discuss food security issues
- > Improvement of the monthly information newsletter with information on vulnerable groups, victims of drought and war, refugees and people affected by AIDS/HIV, and the urban poverty. Moreover the bulleting contains information on nutritional status, distribution of food resources to vulnerable groups, foodstuffs, prices and donors response to emergencies
- > The project has conducted a number of on-the-job and formal training programs for participants from NFIS and its member institutions. To date, three training programmes were organized by the project: (i) basic and intermediate level training in satellite image interpretation for monitoring rainfall and vegetation for early warning (ii) database management and (iii) food balance
- > A workgroup is formed after each training program to follow up development in the specific field and to share experiences. Equipment, such as computers and softwares, has been provided by the project to support workgroup activities. The remote sensing/geographical information system office in the MoA has received special attention and support
- > Organization of seminars on food security issues, vulnerability and means of subsistence and on gender approach
- > Six workgroups have been formed: agricultural monitoring, agricultural emergency, agro-meteorology, food balance, market information and nutrition surveillance



GCP/ERI/006/ITA

Strengthening the Agricultural Research and Extension Division in Eritrea

Thematic area:
Knowledge exchange and policy

Agriculture is the most important sector of the Eritrean economy, relying primarily on smallholder traditional crop and livestock production. In the past decade, the country's economy in general and the agricultural sector in particular were seriously affected by both the prolonged political unrest and the periodic droughts, which displaced farmers, reduced the availability of agricultural inputs and adversely affected agricultural support services including research and extension.

Since attaining independence from Ethiopia in 1991, the Government of the State of Eritrea has focused on developing its agricultural research and extension service capacity both through human resources and infrastructure development. In this context, following a specific request of Eritrea, FAO implemented project GCP/ERI/001/ITA funded by the Government of Italy, which came into effect in 1996. It lasted five years up to August 2001. The project aimed at rehabilitating the Research and Extension Division within the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), supporting the setting up of a research station and providing extensive staff training both within and outside the country.

Considerable economic development occurred between 1993 and 1998, and agricultural output steadily increased, which resulted in a sharp decline in the need for food aid. However, conflict with Ethiopia erupted again in 1998, causing new displacement of people and disruption of production in all sectors.

The final evaluation mission of GCP/ERI/001/ITA, concluded that the project had successfully built research and management capacity in the MoA, and that its impact on production systems was high. It also proposed to formulate a new phase of project GCP/ERI/001/ITA, also to be funded by the Government of Italy, in



order to continue to strengthen agricultural research as a way to increase and sustain farm-level productivity.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Farmers
- > Researchers

■ Objectives

The overall goal of the project is to assist MoA in building-up its institutional capacity for the generation and dissemination of relevant improved agricultural technology and modern cultural practices.

The specific objectives are:

1. Strengthen the human resources capacity of the National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI) within MoA and improving its ability to manage and carry out effective agricultural research programmes. Secondly it will improve the quality of research services
2. Improving the productivity and sustainability of horticultural crops and animal production, developing integrated land and water management systems,

Overall Objective:
Improve the quality of Research services provided to farmers

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$2 987 992

Participating countries:
Eritrea

Duration:
5 years and 7 months
From 26 Sep 2001 to 30 Apr 2007



and exploring moisture conservation and utilization techniques

3. Dissemination of findings amongst farmers is expected to increase food security and the standard of living in rural areas

■ **Strategies**

- > Short-term training courses in different topics: project management and rural development, pearl millet breeding techniques, advanced citrus propagation, management of agricultural research, and soil and plant analysis
- > Seven members of NARI were funded by the project to attend a two-year Master of Science Programme at the University of Asmara in Agriculture and Business Economics
- > Advisory Services were constituted within the MoA, to improve research/extension/farmer linkage and coordination at national and subnational level
- > On-station and on-farm research trials were implemented with the local farmers on priority vegetable, fruit crops varieties and management practices, including fertilization and irrigation
- > Completion of a study on the goat milk production system to improve small ruminants pastoralist systems in cooperation with Halhale Research Centre
- > Review and assess information on soil and water conservation technologies. Researches have been carried out on moisture retention and infiltration, and reduce erosion
- > The Soils Research Laboratory based at the Halhale Research Centre performed physical and chemical analysis of soil samples from different sources, providing the results to beneficiaries with comments and recommendations
- > Soil and fertility types, as well as threshold levels of plant nutrients in cereals and horticultural crops were identified.

■ **Expected results**

- > Improvement of the quality of Research services provided to farmers
- > Improvement of small ruminant pastoralist systems
- > Agricultural engineering methodologies development to reduce post-harvest losses also decreasing problems arising from humidity contents
- > Improvement of the dairy sector

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Improvement of technical capabilities of national staff in the various research activities and programmes development
- > Improvement of Human Resource Capacity in Research
- > Training carried out contributed significantly to improving the technical skills of national staff in implementing various research activities and programmes. In addition to that, seven members of NARI were funded by the project to attend a two-year Master of Science Programme at the University of Asmara in Agriculture and Business Economics
- > Creation of consulting services within the ministries to improve the links between research and agricultural extension and farmers at national and sub-national level. The programme of the Ministry of Agriculture is in the experimenting phase in three sub-regions ('subzoba')
- > Development of technology to minimize post harvest storage losses on cereals



GCPS/ANG/005/ITA

Rehabilitation of Food Security in the Province of Bengo, Angola – a Joint FAO-IFAD-WFP Initiative

Thematic area:
Food security

The economy of Angola is potentially rich, with high oil, mineral, fisheries, livestock, forest, and agricultural under exploited resources. However, the political instability in the last decades generated a very deep economic crisis, with serious side effects in the agricultural sector.

The Italian Government is promoting an interagency project in Angola, to be implemented jointly by the three Rome-based agencies: FAO, the International fund for agricultural development (IFAD) and the World food programme (WFP), through Italian multilateral funding.

All three agencies have ongoing activities in the country. IFAD is supporting the 'Northern Region Food Crops Development' project, while WFP is currently assisting demobilized and displaced people. FAO also supports many projects on agricultural recovery and crop protection.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Farmers
- > Rural households
- > Local institutions

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to strengthen institutional capacities for rural development of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), in order to implement similar programmes on a larger scale.

The specific objectives are:

1. Increase food security through the improvement of the production technology
2. Contribute to the long term objectives of the national agricultural growth
3. Promote collaboration amongst the partners on food security issues

■ Strategies

- > Intensification and diversification activities implemented through the introduction of improved varieties of crops and livestock



- > Several training courses and workshops organized, including participatory approach and gender analysis and a course on project cycle management
- > Adoption of a participatory approach
- > Utilization of national consultant and establishment of a Project Steering Committee

■ Expected results

- > Improved food security through the application of existing advanced productive technology
- > Rehabilitation of infrastructures
- > Improved agricultural production and introduction of small animal breeding
- > Effective technical assistance to farmers

■ Ongoing results

- > In relation to infrastructures, a bridge, various rural roads, four water pits, two schools and three primary health centres were rehabilitated or constructed
- > Beneficiaries trained on project cycle management and on participatory and gender approach
- > Technical assistance was provided and resulted in the introduction of a rural extension system, the training of six local

Overall Objective:
Strengthen the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) institutional capacities for rural development, in order to implement similar programmes on a larger scale

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$1 771 450

Participating countries:
Republic of Angola

Duration:
8 years and 4 months
From 01 Jan 1998 to 31 May 2006



GCPS/ANG/005/ITA

extension experts, support to 862 local families in different communities and the constitution of seven local management committees.

- > 25 water user group associations and 25 small-scale irrigation schemes established, covering an irrigated area of 125 ha
- > The diversification component benefited from the distribution of 1500 agricultural kits and 11300 kg of leguminous seeds, which contributed to an increase in the cultivated area by 43 percent
- > 20 communities engaged in Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) pilot project activities relating to crop intensification and diversification, water management and the establishment of community revolving funds
- > Living conditions of targeted households benefiting from the project in the area of Musseque improved





GCSP/ETH/057/ITA

Thematic area:
Food security

Special Programme for Food Security in Ethiopia – Irrigation Component

The economy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is based on agriculture, which accounts for 85 percent of exports, and 80 percent of total employment. However, the agricultural sector suffers from frequent drought and poor cultivation practices, which result in a severe food insecurity. The goal of the government has been making efforts to rehabilitate the agricultural sector through the provision of production inputs and improved extension services.

FAO has been implementing, since 1995, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in different drought prone areas. The objective of the SPFS in Ethiopia is to assist the government to achieve its goal of closing the food gap between domestic food production and consumption requirements in the medium-term, and to improve food security at household, regional, and national levels. The SPFS focuses on demonstration activities in improved agronomic technologies and practices relating to cereals for non-irrigated agriculture. The programme is implemented in the Wolfa district (Tigray region) and in the Habrun and Gonder Zuria district (Amhara region).

■ Beneficiaries

- a) Farmers
- b) Rural communities

■ Objectives

The overall objective is the increased sustainable production and income.

The specific objectives are:

1. Introduce improved irrigation techniques, which would be replicated on a wide scale as more small-scale irrigation schemes are developed
2. Strengthening group capacity for feasibility studies



3. Provision of adequate training to farmers
4. Implementation of infrastructure works for irrigation

■ Strategies

- > Provide assistance to farmers in establishing or consolidating Water Users' Association or Cooperatives on a voluntary basis
- > Diffuse improved practices through at least one Farmers' Field Day on each scheme
- > Formulate a medium and long-term regional strategy to address meso and macro level constraints to the wider scale development of irrigated crops in each Region
- > Carry-out a Participatory Constraint Analysis in a limited sample of rehabilitated, newly built and traditional small scale irrigation schemes
- > Implement demonstration programmes on fields of interested farmers
- > Carry-out a marketing analysis on actual/potential outlets for irrigated crops in the selected sample of small scale irrigation schemes

Overall Objective:
Improve food security at household, regional, and national levels

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$1 866 110

Participating countries:
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Duration:
8 years and 6 months
From 01 Jul 1998 to 31 Dec 2006



■ **Expected results**

- > Rehabilitation of irrigation schemes in the Amhara and Tigray regions
- > Improved agricultural production
- > Improved food security and diversification of the horticultural production in the dry season

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Building of a new irrigation scheme in the Tigray region
- > Rehabilitation of of two irrigation schemes in the Amhara and Tigray regions
- > One document translated into Amharic and one in Tigray language underway
- > Improved access to credit and inputs for farmers in the project selected schemes





GTFS/ETH/067/ITA

Crop Diversification and Marketing Development Project, in Ethiopia

Thematic area:
Food security

Ethiopia is an agrarian society and one of the poorest countries in the world.

The Government of Ethiopia, by supporting the Crop Diversification and Marketing Development Project, which is part of the Special Programme for Food Security, aims to increase economic growth, enhance food security and alleviate poverty through the empowerment of smallholder farmers, intensification and diversification of production and commercialization of small farms in areas with recognized market potential. The project, financed by the Government of Italy, ensures the long-term sustainability of past and ongoing investments in the Arsi zone, and promotes broader partnership between FAO and other specialized agencies, academic and research institutions and the private sector.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Farm families
- > Farm households
- > Rural women
- > Consumers
- > Private entrepreneurs

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to improve food security of vulnerable groups.

The specific objectives are:

1. Intensify and diversify crop production to improve food security and the diet of villagers as well as increasing food production and cash income
2. Improve value and marketability of agricultural products
3. Identify socio-economic constraints as part of the process of transforming smallholder subsistence agriculture into smallholder commercial agriculture.



■ Strategies

- > Introducing and promoting new farming technologies and practices in small-scale irrigation schemes
- > Diversifying production and commercialization in highland
- > Promoting productivity, better quality and commercialization
- > Strengthening existing cooperative societies to make them more responsive to farmers' needs
- > Strengthening communication and cooperative promotion services to assist small farmers
- > Utilizing microfinance institutions (MFIs)
- > Ensuring participation of women, particularly household-heads, in decision-making

■ Expected results

- > Mobilized trained farmers, both men and women, to effectively undertake and maintain improved water control and watershed management activities

Overall Objective:
Improving food security of vulnerable groups

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$3 000 000

Participating countries:
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Duration:
4 years
From 22 Aug 2005 to 21 Aug 2009



- > Crop production systems developed, intensified and diversified
 - > Farmer-based seed production and marketing system established
 - > Production and commercialization of higher value cereals, pulses and oilseeds
 - > Increased production and marketing of milk and milk products
 - > Empowerment of women by increasing their participation in agricultural production and income generation
- **Ongoing results**
- > Intensive training and in-service training sessions are scheduled to improve technical skills of farmers' organizations in such areas as: production of various crops, irrigation techniques, water management and drainage
 - > Training of women members of farmers' organizations on processing of vegetables such as tomatoes, onion, and pepper to add value for both local and external market is carried out





GCSP/GAM/021/ITA

Special Programme for Food Security in The Gambia

Thematic area:
Food security

In the Republic of the Gambia, access to food supplies is uneven, especially in the period from July to September. During this season about 75 percent of the people, mainly living in rural areas, cannot meet the minimum calorie requirements. Overall, 37 percent of households and 54 percent of the rural population are food poor. Due to the food insecurity situation, the government has established a National Food Security Committee and, in 1997, joined the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) launched by FAO. Project formulation activities were carried out during 1997 and 1998 by a national team with support from FAO. Within the overall SPFS objective to provide food security and improve the welfare of the Gambian people.

The Government of Italy agreed to participate in the SPFS, in Gambia. In March 2001 a joint FAO/Italy mission was fielded to formulate a project proposal for Gambia and project GCSP/GAM/021/ITA was approved and declared operational in April 2002.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Rural households
- > Farming communities
- > Women
- > Agricultural extensionists

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to contribute to food security and the improvement of the welfare of the Gambian people, particularly the most vulnerable ones, women and children.

The specific objectives are:

1. Water management and control through the rehabilitation of watering points, water harvesting/water reservoirs and through the development of low-cost technologies
2. Horticulture intensification, poultry and small ruminants production



3. Diversification into aquaculture and findi (a traditional West African grain also known as hungry rice) production
3. Enhancement of income generation activities

■ Strategies

- > Selection of 20 ha of lowlands suitable for irrigated rice production to develop four pilot sites
- > Adoption of participatory methods for farmers in the field of evaluation of needs
- > A number of improved production technology practices have been introduced. The use of botanical pesticides (e.g. neem leaves, papaya leaves and tobacco leaves) which are biodegradable and harmless to humans and livestock have been demonstrated to farmer in a number of training sessions. Other improved practices include high density in-situ method of raising cashew trees, the dwarfing method in banana production and a rapid multiplication procedure for cassava

Overall Objective:
Raise the income of rural families and contribute to the improvement of food security at household and national levels

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$604 999

Participating countries:
Republic of the Gambia

Duration:
4 years and 6 months
From 23 Apr 2002 to 31 Oct 2006



- > Selection of 10 vegetable gardens for the development of a participatory programme of horticulture
 - > Organization of explorative missions and of sensibilization campaigns in the selected areas
 - > Organization of training courses which targeted 820 people: farmers, animators, members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and students
 - > Implementation of rice production during the dry season using for the first time underground waters
- **Expected results**
- > Land leveling, layout design; fencing; well digging; and distribution of plot/beds among farmers
 - > Institution of a national and local communication programme and of a gathering information system
 - > Development of rural horticulture through irrigation infrastructures
 - > Introduction of new horticultural varieties
 - > Training of farmer groups for the vegetable garden management
- **Ongoing results**
- > Four borehole sites were selected in Bakalarr and Njabakunda in the North Bank Division (NBD), in Missira in the Upper River Division (URD), and in Bwiam in the Western Division (WD), to ensure the supply of water for livestock and horticultural production
 - > Installation of one new borehole at the District Extension Centre in Njabakunda
 - > Manually operated hand auger was introduced to facilitate the digging of earthen holes, of about one-meter of more for fixing fence poles, electrical poles and water-lifting devices
 - > Chain wheel pumps were installed for irrigation and community gardens in Pirang, Kuloro, and some other gardens
 - > Provision of seeds and technical assistance to farmers engaged in rainy season
 - > Training in useful agricultural practices such as the production of seeds and the fight against pest diseases
 - > Creation of manuals for farmer extensionists
 - > A horticulture centre model was established in Wellingara, covering an area of four hectares. The initiative has been carried out through the technical assistance of the horticultural expert together with his Gambian counterparts. As of the end of February 2005, the centre sold 37 200 seedlings of various type
 - > Six poultry units were established in six villages in NBD in 2003, each supplied with 150 broilers and 150 layers
 - > Construction of poultry houses in Daru in NBD and Kaimu in WD was completed in March 2005 together with the construction of small ruminant breeding and fattening pens
 - > Fish ponds have also been introduced, the majority near already existing rice schemes



GCSP/GUI/015/ITA

Special Programme for Food Security in Guinea

Thematic area:
Food security

The fight against poverty and food insecurity is a priority issue for the Government of Guinea, a country where about 30 percent of the population lives under the minimal nutrition standards. Guinea is included among the countries benefiting from the FAO Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), a Programme which follows a phased strategy and focuses on: water control, intensification and diversification of agricultural production and constraint analysis.

Phase I implementation of the SPFS in Guinea started in August 1995. It mostly focused on intensification and water control and resulted in an increase in yields, rentability and labour productivity in demonstration sites.

Within this context and following interest by the Government of Italy to contribute to supporting SPFS in Guinea, a joint FAO/Italy mission was fielded in March–April 2001, in order to formulate a project proposal document. Negotiations for the formulation of the project were completed and project GCSP/GUI/015/ITA was declared operational. The project is complementary to the SPFS Pilot Project in the province of Kindia, which strengthens local peasants associations through the support of national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and is financially supported by the African Development Bank.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Farmers
- > Rural communities

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to extend to the province of Forecariah activities developed in the province of Kindia in relation to rice-culture and sea-food production.



The specific objectives are:

1. Strengthening local peasant organizations
2. Promoting the intensification and diversification of agricultural production
3. Improving natural resources management

■ Strategies

- > A participatory rural appraisal and constraint analysis was conducted in line with the SPFS philosophy in 25 villages in the Moriah and Benty areas
- > The local population has been involved in identifying the available resources, analyzing the production systems, hierarchizing the constraints and, finally, proposing technical solutions to the identified problems
- > Demonstrations on the use of fertilizers for different agricultural practices on rice, maize, banana and horticultural crops involving farmers (50 per cent women farmers) of the selected project area
- > The project is implemented with the support of two local NGOs specialized in farmers' group empowerment: the

Overall Objective:
Extend to the province of Forecariah activities developed in the province of Kindia in relation to rice-culture and sea-food production

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$999 965

Participating countries:
Republic of Guinea

Duration:
4 years and 5 months
From 23 Apr 2002 to 30 Sep 2006



association for the economic development of Kindia (APEK), in the zone of Benna and the support structure to farmers' network (SARA), in the zones of Benty and Moriah

■ **Expected results**

- > Reduction of poverty and food security
- > Improvement of agricultural and horticultural production
- > Strengthening local peasant skills in rice-culture and fisheries production
- > Achieve significant progress in the reforestation programme

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Distribution of tool sets for the management of inland valley swamps (land clearing, levelling, etc.)
- > 11 inland valley swamps are managed, for a total area of 144 hectares. In addition, over 1 000 tonnes of food crop seeds and eight tonnes of fertilizer are distributed with the use of rotation funds
- > Distribution of 1 000 tons of seeds and eight tons of fertilizers

- > Establishment of forestry nursery for 14 villages with thousands of plants of mangium (*Acacia mangium*) and gumhar (*Gmelina arborea*)
- > 24 farmers have been trained in nursery management for mango, avocado and orange trees. Other technical training sessions organized by the project include agroforestry, animal traction and construction of laying nests; further courses have been set up to strengthen farmers' organizations, introduce gender issues and teach accounting management and bookkeeping, while
- > Literacy courses provided to over 2000 people, of which 50 percent women
- > Population involved in identifying the available resources, analyzing the production systems, hierarchizing the constraints and, finally, proposing technical solutions to the identified problems
- > Four multifunctional warehouses for sale of agricultural products and storage completed
- > 11 seed banks constructed; each seed bank has a storage facility and a veranda for meetings and training courses





GTFS/MAR/003/ITA

Preparation of a Feasibility Study for Cross-border Investments by Mauritian Operators to Foster Agribusiness in the SADC Region

Thematic area:
Food security

The project intention is to produce a feasibility study in the Southern African development community (SADC) region for cross-border investments in the agrifood sector. More specifically, the project intends to support investments by potential Mauritian investors in some nearby SADC countries (such as: Madagascar and Mozambique) by assisting them in the preparation of specific feasibility studies.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Rural and food insecure population
- > Mauritian and Malagasy private entrepreneurs
- > Governments of the beneficiary countries

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to promote cross-border investments in the agrifood sector, thus developing a viable model for regional agricultural development.

The specific objectives are:

1. Provide the Governments of Mauritius and Madagascar with tools to identify sound policies for the development of private entrepreneurship in the agricultural and agribusiness sectors
2. Prepare business plans to be implemented by selected investors to promote intra-regional trade

■ Strategies

Organization of a forum for qualified Mauritian private investors in Madagascar in collaboration with the Malagasy private and public sector

Conducting a detailed analysis of two or three mutually agreed investment proposals.



■ Expected results

- > Development of a national investor roadmap covering all aspects related to trade regulatory procedures and relevant to local and foreign investors
- > Development of a viable model for regional agricultural investment based on the roadmap and on feasibility studies

■ Ongoing results

- > Organization of an international forum
- > Feasibility studies analysis
- > Devising of an investment model

Overall Objective:
Increased investment in agriculture and rural development

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$217 900

Participating countries:
Madagascar, Mauritius and Mozambique

Duration:
8 months
From 01 Oct 2005
to 30 Jun 2006



Geographic area:
Africa

GTFS/MOZ/076/ITA

Thematic area:
Food security

National Special Programme for Food Security in Mozambique



The specific objectives are:

1. Improved food security in 12 districts
2. Expansion and diffusion of acquired experiences on food security at national and provincial level

Strategies

- > Promotion of training for trainers on FFS methodology, on educational techniques for adults, and on computer literacy
- > Curricula development in the sectors of integrated production, market and livestock
- > Increase family production with positive impact on food security
- > Improve the skills of concerned governmental staff on the elaboration of strategies in the sector of food security
- > Sustain the established networks in support to food security

Expected results

- > Formulation of FFS curricula
- > Focus the curricula on issues related to integrated production, marketing, and livestock
- > Building of FFS at district level, with regular monitoring
- > Strengthening the information network for food security

Ongoing results

- > Establishment of 88 Farmer Field Schools (FFS)
- > Establishment of 12 'Junior Farmer and Life Schools
- > Promotion of the initiative 'Home Grown School Feeding', in collaboration with the World Food Programme'
- > Organization of a workshop on access to natural resources and food security organized in Maputo

Overall Objective:
Improve food security and reduce poverty of vulnerable groups

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$3 396 700

Participating countries:
Mozambique

Duration:
5 years
From 27 Nov 2003 to 26 Nov 2008

About 70 percent of Mozambique, through the National Action Programme for Food Security II (PAN II), aims to improve food security and reduce poverty through the implementation of participatory capacity building (farmer field schools – FFS) to improve production systems and promote livelihood diversification.

The project is built on the lessons learnt during the implementation from 1997–2002 of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in the context of the Italian funded project GCSP/MOZ/062/ITA, implemented in the provinces of Maputo, Manica and Sofala

Beneficiaries

- > Women and youth
- > Groups attending the FFS
- > Local traders and marketing specialists

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the the national effort to halve the number of under-nurished people by 2015.



GTFS/RAF/391/ITA

Improvement of Food Security in Cross-border Districts of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda in Support of the Modernization of Agriculture under NEPAD Framework

Thematic area:
Food security

In 2003, the Governments of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda framework, agreed to cooperate with FAO under its Global Food Security and Food Safety Trust Fund through a project targeting food security improvement and poverty reduction, in support of their agricultural modernization programmes. The aim of the project is to increase incomes and living standards of the small rural householders in the cross-border districts of Burundi (Ngozi and Kayanza), Rwanda (Nyagarare and Bugesera; Gisagara and Nyaruguru; Byumba and Burera), and Uganda (Kabale, Kisoro), through more profitable agricultural production systems, increased market access and value-added activities and within the wider strategy agreed in 2001 by the New partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD) countries.



■ Beneficiaries

- > Field schools, extension-staff
- > Farmers, small householders

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to improve food security in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda and to reduce poverty by addressing common development issues, most relevant to the modernization of the agricultural production systems.

The specific objectives are:

1. Facilitation of capture of gains from activities promoted by development cooperation
2. Promotion of capacity building

■ Strategies

- > A modern approach to introduce realistic levels of inputs, which will ensure a concrete sustainability to farmers after the end of project activities

- > An approach which respects the agro-ecological features
- > Promotion of sustainable agricultural development
- > Promotion of strategic alliances, partnerships and of a participative approach of the agricultural sector associations

■ Expected results

- > Expanding markets and strengthening market access opportunities for rural communities
- > Intensifying production and improving quality of selected staple and cash products (mainly crops)
- > Improving water resource management

■ Ongoing results

- > Improvement of food security and reduction of poverty
- > Strengthening of farmers organizations and human resources
- > Enhancement of capacity building for local staff through training courses

Overall Objective:
Offering poor, marginal, undercapitalized farmers an opportunity to make a better living from the activities associated with agriculture and rural development.

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$3 000 000

Participating countries:
Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda

Duration:
3 years
From 01 May 2006 to 30 Apr 2009



GTFS/RAF/394/ITA

Thematic area:
Food security

Enhancing Food Security in Cassava-based Farming Systems in Malawi and Zambia



- > Increase of cassava production and other agricultural products for the rural and urban markets

■ Strategies

- > Enhancing agricultural productivity
- > Promotion of capacity building through the organization of training courses
- > Better market integration to improve agricultural productivity
- > Creation and strengthening of agricultural groups and associations able to support food security programmes
- > Development of networks to facilitate the information sharing
- > Identification of commercial opportunities

■ Expected results

- > Improvement of farmer skills in the agricultural management and in the market
- > Strengthened communication channels between rural stakeholders including farmer organizations, private sector bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), etc.
- > Heightened awareness of the role of women in rural enterprise development
- > Consolidated and replicated successful field-tested farmer activities useful for the improvement of rural living-conditions and for poverty reduction
- > Strengthened capacities to support agribusiness service providers
- > Increase farmer and rural community income

■ Ongoing results

- > Enhanced production of cassava in new rural areas
- > Improvement of farmer skills through training courses and a better access to information
- > Collaboration between farmer groups agribusiness service providers
- > Increase of agricultural products diversification to satisfy the most urgent needs of rural people

Overall Objective:
Support agricultural development for food security

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$1 500 000

Participating countries:
Malawi and Zambia

Duration:
2 years
From 17 July 2006
to 16 July 2008

Poverty widespread in Malawi and Zambia, especially in rural areas. Ways need to be found to diversify the range of livelihood opportunities for small holder farmers to increase productivity, income and profitability in a rapidly changing competitive market. The present project has been designed within the framework of the Pan-African Cassava Initiative and aims to demonstrate approaches to increase incomes and living standards of small rural householders through more profitable agricultural production systems and increased market access.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Farmers and women
- > Rural families
- > Farming communities
- > Agribusiness companies

■ Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to improve livelihoods of rural communities

The specific objectives are:

- > Design of technical/economic interventions needed to address problems of food security
- > Strengthen the capacity of farmers and agriculture cooperatives to improve market access



GDCP/SEN/001/ITA

Thematic area:
Food security

Support to Decentralized Management for Food Security and the Fight against Poverty in the District of Sedhiou, Senegal

The Department of Sedhiou, one of the poorest areas of the country, is considered by the Government of Senegal as a priority intervention area.

The project aims at improving the living conditions in the Department. It is focused on the creation of employment, the implementation and diversification of the services of Municipalities, the Regional Agency of the Development of Kolda and handicrafts enterprises and small-enterprises of three Municipalities of Sedhiou.

Activities are implemented through the FAO/Italy Decentralized Cooperation Programme in partnership with the local authorities, the 'Regione Toscana' and the 'Regione Piemonte'.



■ Beneficiaries

- Handicrafts enterprises of three Municipalities in the Department of Sedhiou
- Urban and rural population of the three Municipalities
- Local technical units
- The 'Regional Agency of the Development of Kolda'.

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to support the decentralization process in the three Municipalities and improve the living conditions of the Department of Sedhiou through the creation of employment and the improvement of the diversification of services.

Within this goal the project pursues the following specific objectives:

- Creation of employment and improvement of the capacities of small enterprises and young artisans

- Reinforcement, extension et diversification of the services of the Municipalities
- Improvement of planning and managerial capacities of the three Municipalities to facilitate the participation of the local population in the decision making process

■ Strategies

- > Active participation of the civil society including producers and artisans associations
- > Partnership between the Italian regional institutions participating in the project and the local institutions in the Department of Sedhiou
- > Establishment of an operational communication system among the local participating communities

■ Expected results

- > Improvement of the youth working conditions

Overall Objective:
Support to services decentralization and strengthening of local communities capabilities to improve the standard of living of the Region of Sedhiou

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$450 000

Participating countries:
Senegal

Duration:
2 years and 7 months
From 01 May 2004 to 31 Dec 2006



- > Development of the artisanal activities and small enterprises
 - > Increased input and food security for the poorest households in the Department
- **Ongoing results**
 - > Implementation of the decentralization process
 - > Reinforcement of local communities especially in terms of improvement of family income and food security
 - > Improvement of the planning and management skills of the local people





GDCP/SEN/002/ITA

Consolidation of Micro-gardens for the Improvement of Food Security in Dakar, Senegal

Thematic area:
Food security

The micro-garden technology was introduced in Dakar by FAO in 1999 on the basis of the experience gained in Latin America. The micro-gardens were subsequently integrated in the Special Programme for Food Security and established in other urban areas of Senegal with the support of the Government of Senegal between 2001 and 2003.

The good climate conditions of Dakar enable the householders to the cultivation of gardens, terraces and small areas both for the domestic market and the selling. A micro-garden ensures an average of 6 crop cycles per year with a production that reaches up to 30Kg of vegetables in one month. The farmers can use part of the production to feed their families and to sell the surplus through stallholders as additional source of income.

The project, in the framework of the FAO/Italy Decentralized Cooperation Programme, comes from the twinning between the cities of Milan and Dakar.

■ Beneficiaries

- a) Disadvantaged families
- b) Local technical support services

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to promote the development of micro-gardens in order to improve the nutrition and food quality of families in Dakar.

The specific objectives are:

1. Strengthen farmer groups to allow the sustainability of the domestic vegetable gardens system, including access to microcredit and markets
2. Increase the number of vegetable garden farmers in two years
3. Strengthen the cooperation at institutional level between Rome and Dakar in order to facilitate the decision making process



4. Improve the association, organizational and managerial capacity of the local beneficiaries
5. Explore local markets and propose a methodology for the domestic vegetable garden products marketing in Senegal

■ Strategies

- > Create the training and demonstration centres organizational structure for the urban garden farmers to facilitate their access to input and training and to test surplus marketing mechanisms
- > Include urban domestic gardens in the strategy of the Dakar Municipality for urban and pre-urban agriculture to ensure sustainability of this sector
- > Strengthen cooperation between the two cities with the active participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities and private and public institutions
- > Guarantee the participative method and sensibilization to increase awareness and ownership of the local communities and their associations

Overall Objective:
Development of the micro-gardens activities to improve the nutrition quality of the families in Dakar and to increase the family income

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$450 000

Participating countries:
Senegal

Duration:
2 year
From 01 Jan 2006
to 31 Dec 2007



■ **Expected results**

- > 7 500 families will be included in a functional, productive and trading network of micro-garden products
- > Production of video-tape to increase awareness of civil society in order to explain the benefits of micro-gardens in the field of urban and pre-urban agriculture
- > Establishment of 6 training centres in the area of micro-garden technologies
- > Analysis of benefits and disadvantages for the urban domestic garden system
- > Proposal of an organizational structure for products marketing
- > Improvement of capacity building of the cities of Milan and Dakar in the area of the urban and pre-urban agriculture

- > Awareness campaigns for people living in Dakar and Milan to the opportunities offered by an urban and pre-urban agriculture
- > Inputting of data collected on the domestic gardens in the database 'Hortivar'
- > Creation in Milan of a solidarity fund to promote results sustainability and allow the creation of a micro-credit system for the poor people of Dakar

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Improve the cooperation at institutional level between the cities of Dakar and Milan
- > Strengthen cooperation between the two cities with the active participation of NGOs, universities and private and public institutions





GCP/BOL/037/ITA

Strengthening of the Germoplasm Banks within the National System of Genetic Resources for Agriculture and Feeding in Bolivia

Thematic area:
Sustainable food and agricultural systems

The Republic of Bolivia is an important centre of genetic diversity. Despite all the efforts made by the government, the conservation of the vegetal genetic resources is far from being sufficient to avoid the disappearance of species and varieties.

It is necessary to adopt a new strategy to guarantee its conservation for the benefit of the farmers and the Bolivian society.

In 1996 the country adopted the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Global Plan of Action (GPA) represents an important contribution to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the field of food and agriculture and is one of the supporting elements of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

In 2003, Bolivia participated together with other selected countries in a FAO pilot project, which culminated with the establishment of the National Information Sharing Mechanism on the implementation of the GPA.

The project consists on strengthening three active banks of conservation of germoplasm in Bolivia (Cereal Bank, Tubercle Bank and Bank of Andean Grain) and on constituting a national database to allow the conservation of duplicates of all existing collections. The banks are part of the National System of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Sistema nacional de recursos genéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura – SINARGEAA). Through FAO's technical assistance and funding from the



Government of Italy, the proposed project will improve SINARGEAA's capacity in the conservation and evaluation of the native varieties of cultivated species and its capacity in developing higher scientific activities. It will also contribute to monitor the implementation of the GPA.

■ Beneficiaries

- > The Plant Genetics Research Centre of Pairumani (CIFP)
- > The Foundation for the Promotion and Research of Andean Products (Promoción e investigación de productos andinos – PROIMPA)
- > The banks are part of the National System of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (SINARGEAA)
- > Rural communities

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to strengthen three active banks of conservation of germoplasm

Overall Objective:
Strengthening national gene banks in the conservation of vegetal genetic resources

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$1 016 179

Participating countries:
Bolivia

Duration:
4 years and 5 months
From 01 Jul 2004 to 31 Dec 2008



in Bolivia (Cereal Bank, Tubercle Bank and Bank of Andean Grain) to constitute a national database to allow the conservation of duplicates of all existing collections

The specific objectives are:

1. Strengthening the infrastructure and the activities of three active banks of germplasm
2. Reinforce the National Information Sharing Mechanism for the implementation of the GPA

■ **Strategies**

- > Organization of two workshops for the establishment of the National Information Sharing Mechanism. Through this Mechanism, which is based on the participation of stakeholders at a national level, the project will promote information exchange and will strengthen stakeholder cooperation, thereby contributing to enhance the capacity of the National Programme for Conservation and Utilisation of Plant Germplasm and Agro-biodiversity
- > The project has acquired part of the necessary equipment to strengthen the national Cereal Bank, Tubercle Bank and Andean Bank, as foreseen in the project document
- > Capacity building activities envisaged, that concerns the support of three PhD courses in genetic resources and molecular biology for three staff members of the Counterpart Organizations

■ **Expected results**

- > Contribution to have better equipped laboratories and qualified personnel and it will foster the utilization of techniques on tissue culture and molecular biology to support different processes that imply the conservation of the genetic resources
- > Improve SINARGEAA's capacity in the conservation and evaluation of the native varieties of cultivated species and its capacity in developing higher scientific activities. It will also contribute to monitor the implementation of the GPA
- > Promote information exchange
- > Strengthen stakeholder cooperation, thereby contributing to enhance the capacity of the National Programme for Conservation and Utilisation of Plant Germplasm and Agro-biodiversity

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Strengthening the infrastructure and the activities of three active banks of germplasm
- > Reinforce the National Information Sharing Mechanism for the implementation of the GPA
- > Improve food security





GDCP/BRA/001/ITA

Support to the Water Control Component of the 'Fome Zero' Programme in the Area of Dois Irmaos, Brazil

Thematic area:
Sustainable food and agricultural systems

The project identified by the joint mission responds to a situation of real need in the Dois Irmaos semi-arid areas of the North East. Food production is based on subsistence farming dependent on erratic rainfall and rural families often lack access to water to clean and cook, ensuring a minimum of food security and food safety. The result is unstable food production, high incidence of disease for lack of hygienic facilities and insufficient supply of nutritious elements for consumption in particular during the long periods of drought (6 to 9 months a year depending on the area).

The project aims at helping the vulnerable farmers in making better use of rain water in order to improve the access to drinking water and to increase on-farm food production. The project will attempt to utilize water availability at the household/farmer level as a powerful incentive for families to engage in agricultural activities by growing vegetables in their backgardens or initiating related income-earning activities such as poultry, small ruminants, food processing (jam and marmalade production) or apiculture.

Activities are implemented through the FAO/Italy Decentralize Cooperation Programme in partnership with local authorities and the regions of 'Toscana' and 'Piemonte'.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Rural communities
- > Farmers

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to help the vulnerable farmers in making better use of rain water in order to improve the access to



drinking water and to increase on-farm food production.

The specific objectives are:

1. To attempt to utilize water availability at the household/farmer level as a powerful incentive for families
2. To engage in agricultural activities by growing vegetables in their backgardens or initiating related income-earning activities such as poultry, small ruminants, food processing (jam and marmalade production) or apiculture

■ Strategies

- > The project adopts a participatory approach and facilitate interaction among beneficiaries. An initial seminar on water harvesting techniques is organized to enhance ownership by

Overall Objective:

Helping the vulnerable farmers in making better use of rain water

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution:

US\$300 000

Participating countries:

Brazil

Duration:

2 years
From 01 Mar 2005
to 28 Feb 2007



beneficiaries; technical advice and recommendations will be provided on suitable cropping systems, production patterns, food processing techniques, food hygiene, access to credit, markets and nutrition habits

- > Local institutions, communities and farmers will be sensitized on the benefits of appropriate water management and conservation techniques with recurrent participatory training courses and workshops. Moreover, integration and interaction will be established between decentralized authorities in line with a strong people-to-people approach
- > Identification and adoption of specific strategies to reduce poverty and to improve women empowerment
- > Training in improved techniques for retention and efficient use of water

■ **Expected results**

- > Target beneficiaries more aware of project's goals and objectives and better trained to fully participate in project work
- > Improved cropping systems adopted by local farmers that will increase their food security; improved farmers' livelihoods by being able to add extra value to their agricultural production by making simple on-farm processing/transformation of agricultural products and by improving their nutrition habits

- > Local institutions strengthened with improved planning skills and with a better understanding of the development alternatives for their communities in the semi-arid environment; farmers, communities and local institutions able to utilize their water resources in a productive and sustainable way
- > Make available at no cost at the community level other rainwater collection systems for irrigation and training purposes, such as barrages or other run-off water harvesting systems

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Better standard of living of vulnerable farmers achieved
- > Improved access to drinking water and to increase on-farm food production
- > Use water availability at the household/farmer level as a powerful incentive for families to engage in agricultural activities by growing vegetables in their backyards or initiating related income-earning activities such as poultry, small ruminants, food processing (jam and marmalade production) or apiculture
- > Collaboration with Brazilian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government institutions in enhancing the efficiency of water harvesting in rural areas in accordance to the needs of the beneficiaries





GCP/BOL/034/ITA

Information, Communication and Training for Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Agriculture in Bolivia

Thematic area:
Knowledge exchange and policy

In the recent past, municipalities in the Republic of Bolivia have been given the responsibility to promote agriculture, sustainable natural resources management (NRM) and rural development. Many of them have set up technical units to support municipal development plans and agricultural initiatives which meet the needs of rural communities. Within this framework, communication is central to improving traditional farming systems, facilitating access to information and training, and enhancing the participation of rural communities in local development plans. In this respect, the government felt the urgent need to strengthen the capacities of municipality staff, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and farmer representatives in the design of agricultural development plans, as well as in information and communication, environment planning and participatory methods.

The present project builds on the achievements of two previously Italian funded projects in the Department of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, GCP/RLA/114/ITA 'Communication for the Development in Latin America', concluded in 1997 and project GCP/INT/542/ITA 'Interregional Project for Participatory Upland Conservation and Development – Bolivia component', concluded in 2002.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Rural people
- > Farmers associations
- > NGOs
- > Municipalities

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to implement a rural communication plan to promote sustainable



natural management and rural development in an area comprising eleven municipalities.

The specific objectives are:

1. Establish the Communication and Training Centre for Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Agriculture (CARENAS)
2. Promote the implementation of a multimedia information network, Rural Information and Communication System (SICOR)
3. Develop communication strategies and link up municipalities, NGOs, farmers associations, and communities

■ Strategies

- > Strengthen the capacities of municipality staff, NGOs and farmer representatives in the design of agricultural development plans, as well as in information and communication, environment planning and participatory methods
- > Using a participatory approach in defining a detailed work plan, through an in-depth communication needs assessment within the municipalities involved

Overall Objective:
Implement a rural communication plan to promote sustainable natural management and rural development

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$449 967

Participating countries:
Bolivia

Duration:
3 years
From 28 Apr 2003 to 30 Sep 2006



- > Three days intensive training sessions on information and communication methods and techniques were also conducted in the following municipalities: Santa Rosa, El Torno and La Guardia with over 60 participants from the 11 municipalities
- > Organization of studies on information and communication technology (ICT)
- > Cooperation with the autonomous University 'Gabriel Renè Moreno' and University 'La Sapienza' of Rome. The project has carried out research studies on the information and communication technology applications to provide agricultural information to the rural communities
- > Organization of a training course for 16 agencies and local institutions working in the field of radio broadcasting companies to improve radio programmes quality in the Pirai river basin area
- > Training of 21 specialists on communication methodologies
- **Expected results**
 - > Promote agriculture, sustainable natural resources management (NRM) and rural development
 - > Improve traditional farming systems
 - > Facilitate access to information and training, and enhancing the participation of rural communities in local development plans. In this respect, the government felt the urgent need
 - > Enhance the capability of local institutions, communication facilities, local experts and farmers in implementing efficient rural communication activities integrating different media such as video, radio and the Internet
 - > The CARENAS will be a self-sufficient institution operating with the participation of local institutions including the Municipality of Santa Cruz and the Autonomous University 'Gabriel Renè Moreno (UAGRM)'
- **Ongoing results**
 - > A number of videos concerning local issues have been distributed to 25 communities of the eleven municipalities
 - > The CARENAS become a self-sufficient institution operating with the participation of local institutions including the Municipality of Santa Cruz and the Autonomous University 'Gabriel Renè Moreno (UAGRM)'
 - > An initial proposal for the CARENAS website has been presented, explaining institutional framework of the training centre, activities, capacity building programmes, information and events
 - > Improve the quality of radio broadcasts



GDCP/BRA/002/ITA

Micro-garden Technologies for Improved Food Security in Selected Districts of the City of Teresina in the State of Piauí, Brazil

Thematic area:
Food security

The project aims to introduce microgarden technologies to selected areas of the city of Teresina, the capital of the State of Piauí, in Brazil.

Besides improving food security, growing fresh vegetables will be of immediate economic advantage to the community as they will be less dependent on the purchase of supplies on the local market and be able to make savings on their contributions to the cost of the meals. Microgarden technologies (including hydroponic cultivation) will also enable them to engage in micro-entrepreneurial activity, producing their own quality vegetables and selling surplus production on the local market. Activities are implemented through the FAO/Italy Decentralized Cooperation Programme in partnership with local authorities and the region of 'Veneto'.



■ Beneficiaries

- > 13 Women associations
- > Children
- > Technical staff of the Federal University of Teresina
- > Students of the Federal University of Teresina
- > Graduates from the Faculty of Agriculture of Teresina

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to improve food security in selected districts of the city of Teresina.

The specific objectives are:

1. Incentive families to engage in agricultural activities by growing vegetables in their backyards or initiating related income-earning activities such as poultry, small ruminants, food processing (jam and marmalade production) or apiculture

2. Use waste material or inexpensive local by-products (rice husk, gravel, coconut fiber, dried moss) as substrates for microgardens
3. Avoid nutrient deficiencies through better plant nutrition chemical contamination of the soil and groundwater
4. Increase water use efficiency (optimized consumption with reduced loss from evaporation and no leaching)

■ Strategies

- > Organizing seminars for public authorities and staff from partner institutions to create awareness about the microgarden systems (including hydroponic cultivation) in urban and periurban agriculture
- > Training workshops for 20 young graduates who will provide training and follow-up technical advisory services to the Mother clubs

Overall Objective:
Promote the expansion of micro garden technologies to improve food security in the city of Teresina

Donor:
Government of Italy

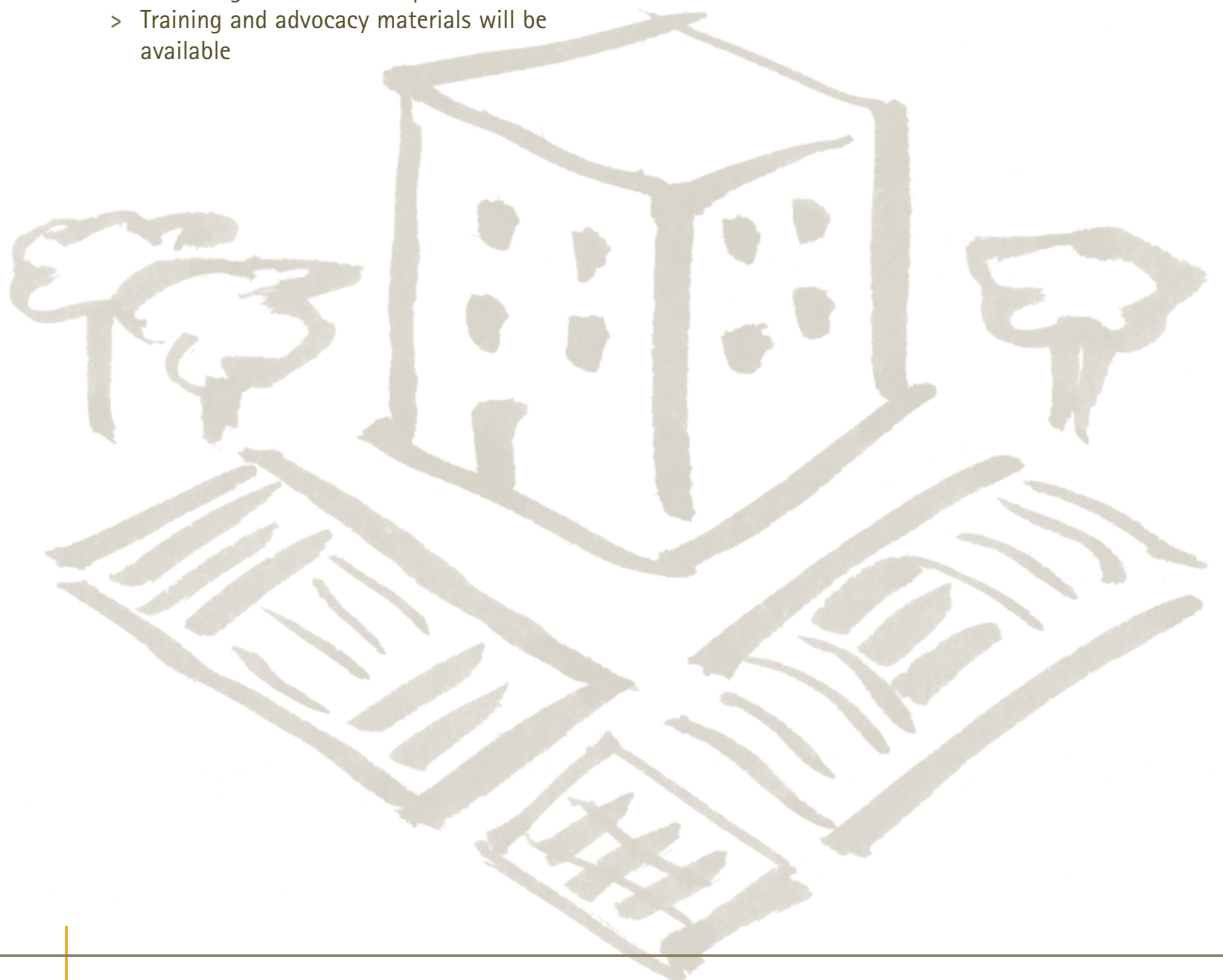
Contribution:
US\$150 000

Participating countries:
Brasil

Duration:
2 years
From 01 Jun 2005
to 31 May 2007



- > A study tour to Italy for four young graduates from the Faculty of agriculture of the Federal university of Teresina to participate in a training course organized by the University of Padova, Italy.
 - > Utilizing microgarden technologies to raise the number of growing cycles, repeatedly growing the same crop and obtaining higher output
 - > Providing the children's canteens in the Mothers' Clubs with fresh vegetables of guaranteed origin and quality
- **Expected results**
- > Centre(s) for demonstration and training on microgarden technologies will be established
 - > Beneficiaries will be trained to practice microgardens at their homestead
 - > Scientific and technical capabilities will be strengthened to monitor and implement the microgarden programme for Teresina
 - > A range of vegetables will be produced, consumed and marketed to the benefit of the Mother clubs
 - > New cultivars and production technologies have been experimented.
 - > Training and advocacy materials will be available
- **Ongoing results**
- > Improving of food security in terms of food availability, stability of supplies across time, meeting the demand and nutrition
 - > Raising of the number of growing cycles, repeatedly growing the same crop and obtaining higher output
 - > Increasing water use efficiency (optimized consumption with reduced loss from evaporation and no leaching)





GTFS/DOM/010/ITA

Promotion of Food Security in the CARICOM¹/CARIFORUM² Region - Dominican Republic

Thematic area:
Food security

The project has been formulated within the framework of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), with the aim of supporting the Government of the Dominican Republic in strengthening and building its capacities to address food insecurity. It is part of the vertical component of the Italian funded Regional Project for Food Security in CARICOM/CARIFORUM countries. This project is the first phase of the SPFS and is being implemented in an area bordering Haiti, in the rural communities of El Estero and El Tamarindo, where the population is facing food insecurity and extreme poverty. The project will be co-funded through a unilateral trust fund of the Government of the Dominican Republic of about US\$300 000.

■ Beneficiaries

- > El Estero and El Tamarindo rural communities
- > 525 Families (2375 people)
- > Producers, organised in groups and associations
- > Consumers

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to support the Dominican Republic to reinforce and improve its capacity to increase food security.

The specific objectives are:

1. Promote and facilitate investments and sustainable management of water resources in the communities of El Estero and El Tamarindo
2. Contribute to the identification of adequate production systems based on organic farming and farm irrigation requirements
3. Assist communities to introduce new techniques of commodities processing and improve production, commercialization and trade efficiency



■ Strategies

- > Building systems to improve the management of water resources at household level
- > Finalizing a topographical study to identify best areas for potential use of irrigation
- > Supporting small holder farmers to identify, select and manage production and irrigation systems
- > Ensuring efficiency in planning and implementing project activities
- > Supporting decentralization and community involvement through a participatory approach

■ Expected results

- > Increased agricultural production through improved use of water resources
- > Decreased agricultural losses
- > Improved access to markets for small holders
- > Strengthened associations for post-harvest activities

■ Ongoing results

- > Development of competence on food consumption, family nutrition, and food conservation

Overall Objective:
Improve food security of vulnerable groups

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$300 000

Participating countries:
Dominican Republic

Duration:
1 year and 5 months
From 01 May 2006 to 31 Oct 2007

1. Caribbean community and common market – CARICOM
2. Forum of the Caribbean ACP States – CARIFORUM



Thematic area:
Food security

Institutional Support to National Policies and Programmes for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation in Guatemala



reducing poverty and increasing national and households' food security.

The specific objectives are:

1. Provide technical assistance to local entities in the preparation and implementation of activities within the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS)
2. Promote linkages between the FAO ordinary programme and field activities
3. Support the Government of Guatemala in the fight against hunger providing assistance in the formulation and application of food security policies and national plans
4. Support the creation of a national alliance against hunger (NAAH) and ensuring that this will be strongly linked with national institutions, United Nations agencies, potential donors, Development Banks, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society
5. Participate in regional and sub-regional conferences on rural development, food security and poverty alleviation
6. Strengthen FAO's role in the country by selecting an FAO official in charge of the inception of the project activities

Overall Objective:
Reducing poverty and increasing national and households' food security

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$727 551

Participating countries:
Guatemala

Duration:
3 years
From 01 Aug 2003
to 31 Dec 2007

Since the mid 1990s, successive Guatemalan governments have concentrated efforts on improving the economic and social situation in the country to comply with commitments to which they subscribed in the Peace Agreements and, more recently, in international conferences on food security and poverty alleviation. The government has promoted several actions to overcome situations of extreme poverty, inequality and social and political marginalization, making it clear that rural development needs to become the country's highest priority.

■ **Beneficiaries**

- > Coffee producers
- > Farmers
- > Rural communities

■ **Objectives**

The overall objective is to provide assistance to the Government of Guatemala in

■ **Strategies**

- > Implementation of a NAAH, a Regional Food Security Strategy and a National Programme for Food Security
- > A Ministerial Technical Committee nominated by the Vice-Ministry of Food Security to introduce seven agricultural good practices elaborated and tested within the framework of the SPFS for all on-going food security field projects in the country
- > Strategic alliances and agreements with national government institutions (e.g. NAAH and the Vice Ministry of Food Security of the Ministry of Agriculture),



- bilateral donors and multilateral agencies (United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations Volunteers, World Food Programme, etc.), national and international NGOs, farmers' organizations and the private sector
- > Formulation of sensitization and empowerment campaigns
 - > Organization of appropriate training courses on Poverty and Food Security, organized in collaboration with three local universities

■ **Expected results**

- > Reducing poverty and increasing national and households' food security
- > Enhance the agricultural production
- > Enhance the access to formal markets

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Involvement of over 10,000 families in 14 departments and 130 communities in project activities
- > Scaling up of the SPFS through a coordination unit to reach national coverage
- > Establishment of Food Banks
- > Organization of awareness campaigns on food security and related issues
- > Organization, in collaboration with local universities, of an advanced academic course on legislation for food security
- > A series of publications and information material on food security and nutrition has been published and distributed, such as food security booklets, posters and a leaflet, and a drawing competition for children has been organized on the subject 'forests, water and food'





Geographic area:

Latin America and the Caribbean

GTFS/HAI/018/ITA

Thematic area:
Food security

Promotion of Food Security in the CARICOM¹/CARIFORUM² Region – Haiti



The specific objectives are:

1. Improve food security, nutritional status and health of rural communities
2. Increase sustainable agricultural production and diversification

■ Strategies

- > Improving irrigation systems, traditional technologies and rural infrastructures
- > Strengthening irrigation associations' capacities and skills
- > Promoting improved low-cost technology related to sweet potatoes, rice, beans, poultry and aquaculture among others
- > Training of producers, farmers, groups and associations
- > Facilitating access to credit by small holders

■ Expected results

- > Improvement of 12 irrigation systems and strengthening water management capacity in 12 associations
- > Production systems diversified by introduction of small-scale livestock units and aquaculture
- > Additional production of 48,000 tonnes of sweet potatoes
- > Farmers trained through participatory capacity building methodologies
- > Simplified access to credit for producers
- > Additional incomes for 4,000 rural families

■ Ongoing results

- > Increased sweet potato productivity
- > Strengthen irrigation associations' capacities through the use of new technologies as well as encouraging the adoption of effective food security policies
- > Farmers trained through participatory building methodologies
- > Simplified access to credit for producers

Overall Objective:
Improve food security of vulnerable groups

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$500 000

Participating countries:
Haiti

Duration:
1 year
From 01 Apr 2005
to 31 Oct 2007

Haiti is a rural society where 90 percent of the population is employed in agriculture.

This project ensures liaison between the ongoing Special Programme for Food Security implemented in 1997, the new National Programme for Food Security and the Regional Programme for Food Security in the Caribbean region financed by the extraordinary Italian Contribution to the Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety. The project launches an important activity at national level aimed at increasing sweet potato productivity, strengthening irrigation associations' capacities through the use of new technologies as well as encouraging the adoption of effective food security policies.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Vulnerable and food insecure producers, organised into groups and associations
- > Consumers
- > Women
- > Rural communities

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to improve food security within vulnerable groups.

1. Caribbean community and common market – CARICOM
2. Forum of the Caribbean ACP States – CARIFORUM



GTFS/RLA/141/ITA

Thematic area:
Food security

Regional Programme for the Promotion of Food Security in the CARICOM¹/CARIFORUM² Region

Caribbean Community states are small, dependent, vulnerable, and primarily single sectorised. This leads to low productivity and production, decline in earnings from traditional crops, inadequate trade policy, high dependence on imported food, increasing poverty, and growing food related diseases such as obesity, hypertension, cancer and diabetes. The present project, financed by the extraordinary Italian Contribution to FAO Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety, assists CARIFORUM member countries with regards to food security and poverty eradication, environment protection and sustainable natural resources management, disaster mitigation, and sector policy strengthening.



■ Beneficiaries

- > Poorest rural communities
- > Farmers
- > Young
- > Women

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to improve the food security situation in CARIFORUM³ states.

The specific objectives are:

1. Strengthen policy, trade, planning and service capacity of the different regional, national and community institutions and organizations working to promote food security
2. Improve production and marketing systems accessible to small farmers in food insecure communities

■ Strategies

- > Improving water use to produce food crops for consumption and sale on domestic and international markets

- > Transferring and adopting improved technology to increase production and quality of produce
- > Providing information and marketing system support in order to facilitate market access
- > Strengthening the Food insecurity and vulnerability information and mapping system (FIVIMS)
- > Facilitate the access of communities to natural resources

■ Expected results

- > Improvement of children, women and farmers' nutrition education
- > Creation of a food security monitoring system
- > Improvement of food security information
- > Improved small farmers' marketing capacity

Overall Objective:
Increasing food security through appropriate policies and activities in the Caribbean region

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$4 974 136

Participating countries:
CARICOM/
CARIFORUM
countries

Duration:
3 years
From 01 May 2003
to 30 Apr 2006

1. Caribbean community and common market – CARICOM

2. Forum of the Caribbean ACP States – CARIFORUM

3. The countries participating to the project are: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago



GTFS/RLA/141/ITA

- **Ongoing results**
 - > Development of the integration process of agricultural policies
 - > Creation of National Steering Committees
 - > Institution of training courses for local staff
 - > Preparation of an instrument to evaluate food security and vulnerability





GCSP/CMB/009/ITA

Integrated Irrigation Development Project in Battambang Province in Support of SPFS¹ in Cambodia

Thematic area:
Sustainable food and agricultural systems

Over the past 10 to 15 years average per-hectare-yields in Kingdom of Cambodia have fallen from over 3.5 tonnes per ha to less than two tonnes per ha and farmers have switched from a double-cropped irrigated rice production system to one cycle of rain-fed wet season rice. This fall of productivity is the result of many factors including the absence of supplementary irrigation, the non-availability of improved seeds and agricultural fertilizer as well as limited access to agricultural credit. Due to neglected maintenance of the hydraulic infrastructure canals have also become blocked, and hydraulic structures have deteriorated. Also, it can be suggested that a number of socio-economic factors such as unclear land property rights and a weak educational system have aggravated the food supply situation further. Another problem is associated with the state's inability to provide sufficient irrigation extension services to the farming community.

The project is expected to make an important contribution to more efficient use of land and water resources through the provision of rehabilitated and improved hydraulic infrastructure serving 2 200 ha of irrigated land. Through the facilitation of adequate institutional arrangements water users will be in a much better position to participate in the management of the irrigation system. Also, there will be a positive impact on the socio-economic situation of communities through the availability of educational and credit facilities. This project is financed under the multi-bilateral programme.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Farmers
- > Rural communities



■ Objectives

The overall objective is to increase the food security and livelihood of the population living in the Province of Battambang through improved water resource management, increased agricultural production, adequate institutional arrangements and community empowerment

The specific objectives are the following:

1. The rehabilitation and construction of the hydraulic infrastructure of the Komping Puoy Irrigation System commanding an area of 2 200 hectares of irrigated land
2. The increase of the agricultural productivity through improved water control, crop intensification and diversification of the prevailing farming system representing an area of maximum 5 050 hectares including 2 200 hectares rehabilitated under this project
3. Improving the management of irrigation systems based on adequate water user participation through development and strengthening of the farmer water users groups (FWUGs)
4. Provision community development services following a list of identified priority support and training need

Overall Objective:

Enhancing food security and ameliorating socio-economic conditions of the people in the project area

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution:

US\$3 268 302

Participating countries:

Kingdom of Cambodia

Duration:

3 years
From 01 Dec 2005
to 30 Nov 2008

1. Special programme for food security



■ **Strategies**

- > Rehabilitation and construction of adequate hydraulic infrastructures
- > Facilitation and development of effective institutional arrangements that lead to more active and sustainable water users participation in the management of irrigated systems, through training of staff under the FWUGs
- > Improvement of the prevailing food production systems through well established interventions such as farmer seasonal planning, farmer field school, field studies and training. These activities will be facilitated by district staff with support of the provincial and national PMU staff but sponsored by the FWUGs. This part of the strategy will take advantage of both food security and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) experiences in their respective fields
- > Support activities targeting the rural communities as a whole, following a broad assessment of support and training needs.

■ **Expected results**

- > Improved food security and living conditions of the beneficiaries in Battambang Province
- > Increased agricultural production
- > Improved population skills in water management issues
- > Establishment of a micro credit system
- > Improved food production systems and improved management of water resources

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Building of an adequate irrigation system covering an area of 2,200 hectares
- > Rehabilitation of the community educational centers
- > Community empowerment in irrigation systems management





GTFS/INT/907/ITA

Controlling Transboundary Animal Diseases in Central Asian Countries

Thematic area:
Sustainable food and agricultural systems

Most of the population in Afghanistan and Central Asian countries depends on livestock for its livelihood, however, rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), and 'peste des petits ruminants' (PPR) represent constraints to production. The present project, thanks to the extraordinary Italian Contribution to FAO Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety, seeks to assist countries in the development of their capability of controlling transboundary animal diseases (TAD) that threaten food security by causing mortality and production losses.

The emphasis is on staff training in the field and laboratory procedures for animal disease diagnosis as well as developing communication links with neighbouring countries to improve regional knowledge and cooperation.



■ Beneficiaries

- > Children
- > Women
- > Livestock owners
- > Participants in livestock industries
- > National veterinary authorities

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to increase food security by reducing livestock production losses caused by infectious diseases.

The specific objectives are:

1. Progress towards the eradication of rinderpest
2. Establish communication between countries for collaborative disease control
3. Establish national disease investigation, control and contingency planning for TAD

■ Strategies

- > Analysing national livestock disease data for control and contingency planning
- > Collecting, analysing and distributing data on the occurrence of FMD and PPR
- > Developing laboratory capabilities for appropriate control and threat measures

- > Improving field staff skills for interaction with livestock owners and traders
- > Conducting workshops to increase awareness of veterinary issues
- > Assisting veterinary authorities to evaluate vaccine quality
- > Promoting vaccination campaigns
- > Providing data for the eradication of animal diseases
- > Developing a computer database to record, analyse and transmit information on transboundary diseases

■ Expected results

- > Enabling staff to undertake disease investigation and participatory epidemiology studies
- > Evidenced eradication of rinderpest
- > Regional information on the prevalence of FMD and PPR
- > Established effective disease reporting and investigation systems in each country
- > Identified priorities for disease control programs and applied research on regional problems Central Asian Countries
- > Country Main city Population Land HDI1

Overall Objective:
Increasing food security by reducing livestock production losses caused by infectious disease

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$2 842 126

Participating countries:
Afghanistan, Republic of Pakistan, Tajikistan, Republic of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Duration:
3 years
From 01 Aug 2004 to 31 Jul 2007



■ **Ongoing results**

- > Organization of the first regional workshop held in Dushanbe on the eradication of the rinderpest
- > Organization of awareness campaigns in the participating countries to improve the diagnostics capacities of the diseases.
- > Organization of a workshop in Kabul in response to the request for assistance made following a series of FMD outbreaks
- > Organization of vaccination campaigns
- > Identification of the PPR situation in Tajikistan





GCP/LAO/013/ITA

Improvement and Development of Fruit and Vegetable Crops in Lao PDR

Thematic area:
Sustainable food and agricultural systems

The Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) in its 'New Strategic Vision for the Agricultural Sector' and National Poverty Eradication Programme (NPEP) is committed to helping farmers to move towards agricultural diversification and horticultural cash crop growing as a way to increase land productivity, reduce poverty and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

■ Beneficiaries

- > The fruit and vegetable producers in the districts of Luang Prabang and Champassak provinces
- > Semi-commercial market vegetable gardeners
- > The small fruit orchard owners and families as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector and farmer based organizations
- > Small private nursery owners in the production of superior planting material of fruit crops and vegetable seed growers
- > Women and children in the target areas, by providing more fruit and vegetables and helping in contributing to improved nutrition, as well as income enhancement

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to increase food security developing sustainable horticultural systems in the country in order to reduce poverty to increase income, and to improve smallholders living condition.

The specific objectives are:

1. Identify and generate technologies on cultivars and agronomic practices related to fruit and vegetable crops suited to production in the target areas
2. Enhance human resource development and technology transfer through training and demonstration on fruit and vegetable



cultivation and on-post harvest and marketing techniques

3. Increase production and use of high quality fruit and vegetable planting material for improved production of horticultural crops
4. Promote agro processing, including both home and semi commercial processing
5. Identify an agribusiness development model to foster investment and promote appropriate credit systems

■ Strategies

- > Improvement of small-holders living conditions through technological and socio-economic initiatives
- > Strengthening the horticultural sector through the support of institutional capacities in particular within parastatal organizations, NGOs, private sector and farmers organizations involved in the sector
- > Ad-hoc interventions in the field of technology and socio-economic development

Overall Objective:
Enhanced the level of food security by developing sustainable fruit and vegetable farming systems

Donor:
Government of Italy

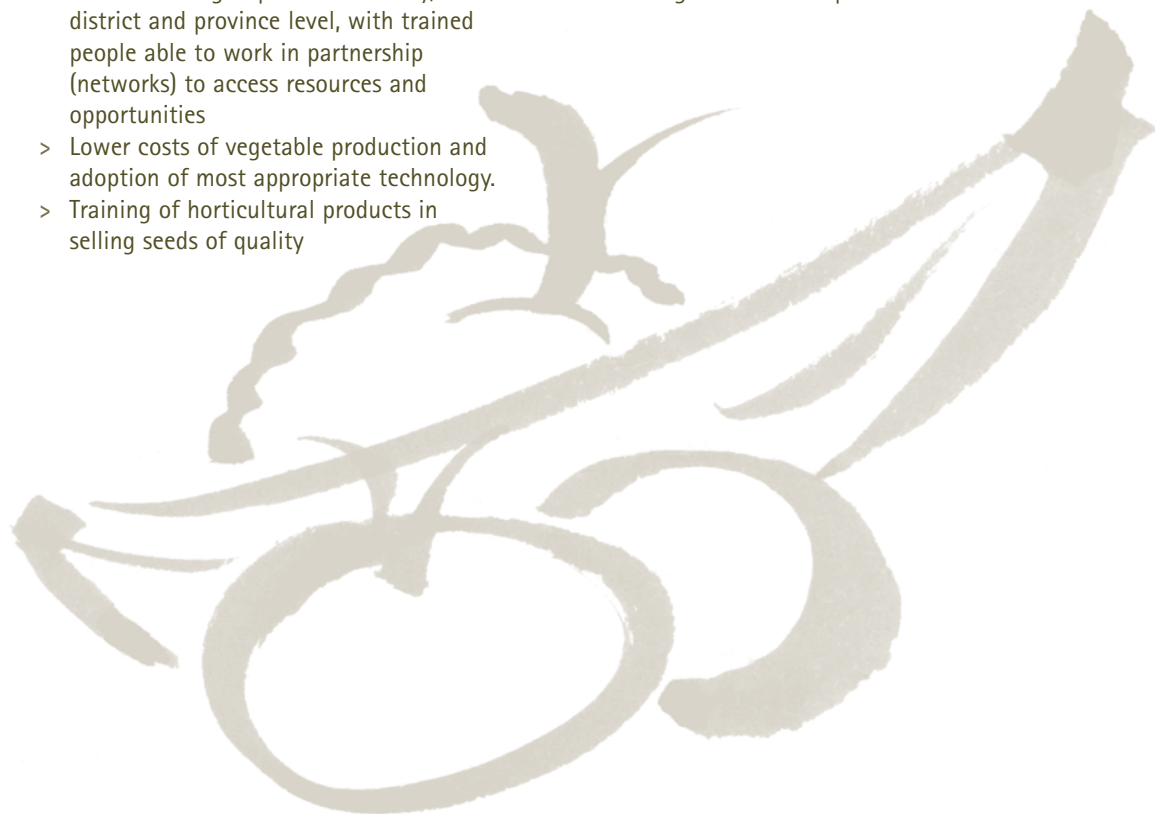
Contribution:
US\$749 981

Participating countries:
People's Democratic Republic of Lao

Duration:
3 years
From 01 Oct 2004 to 30 Sep 2007



- > Creation of tools and mechanisms (core of trainers, training material, demonstrations etc.) to ensure effective technology transfer to the various agents actually involved in the fruit industry after the closure of project activities
 - > Smallholder farmers, and farm families will be intimately involved in the project activities, including women
- **Expected results**
- > Improvement food security, with specific reference to women and children, and increase of the income of people in the rural communities
 - > Good training possibilities for public and private sectors, the institutions of civil societies, associations, and groups of farmers, empowered to work in the society and to have better access to resources and opportunities
 - > Effective women's empowerment, based on collaborative technical activities and focus groups
 - > Development of appropriate horticultural technologies evaluated and adopted by farmers
 - > Strengthening of the horticultural sector through the collaboration of civil society institutions, associations, farmer groups, and women's groups at community, district and province level, with trained people able to work in partnership (networks) to access resources and opportunities
 - > Lower costs of vegetable production and adoption of most appropriate technology.
 - > Training of horticultural products in selling seeds of quality
- **Ongoing results**
- > Improvement of smallholders living conditions through technological and socio-economic interventions
 - > Development of local manpower and technology transfer through training courses and demonstrations on the vegetable culture techniques
 - > Initial exploration of commercial agribusiness development opportunities
- **Ongoing results**
- > Ensuring food security and improving incomes and livelihoods of poor smallholder farmers, who are looking for diversification and for the opportunities that this can offer, by developing fruit and vegetable production systems
 - > Development of local fruit growing along with increased food supply, home processing, and improved nutrition
 - > Practical and intensive training courses provided to provinces and districts parties
 - > Effective women's empowerment, based on collaborative technical activities and focus groups
 - > Strengthening of local trainers. Development of training modules including a broad varieties of field activities. During the training course each participant develops a specific manual concerning his field of expertise





GCP/NEP/056/ITA

Promotion of Olive Production and Consumption in Nepal

Thematic area:
Sustainable food and agricultural systems

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Nepalese economy. It is the principle source of employment to over 80 percent of the population. Although its share in the Gross Domestic Product is gradually declining over the years to stand at about 40 percent at present, it is still the principal source of livelihood to most of the rural population.

To address the problem of widespread rural poverty and to increase the growth rate in agriculture His Majesty's Government of Nepal is implementing a long-term agriculture perspective plan (APP). The Plan's strategy is to take advantage of the country's agro-climatic diversity through regional specialization and intensification of agricultural production. Introduction of suitable technologies and management practices as a package to intensify production is a part of the strategy. While production of cereal grains and industrial crops are proposed for the Tarai, expansion of horticultural and livestock production are proposed for the hills and mountain regions.

Project GCP/NEP/056/ITA is implemented as an integrated agricultural development project. The experience so far indicates that the best results are obtained when olive production activities are integrated with processing at the household levels, combined with promotion of marketing and consumption. For that purpose apart from introducing technologies for olive production and their upkeep the project introduces simple equipments and processing facilities for processing of olive oil in the villages. The other aspect of integration is the incorporation of other crops, such as beans and pulses, in olive plantations.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Planners and decision makers within the Ministry of Agriculture as well as at regional and district level
- > Farmers interested in olive production
- > Woman



■ Objectives

The overall objective is to enhance the development in the agricultural sector.

The specific objectives are:

1. Establishment of a functional system for production and distribution of olive plants
2. Development of feasible olive based farming systems
3. Development of an agreed national strategy for promotion and consumption of olive oil

■ Strategies

- > Use of international and national capacity building experts (horticulturists, experts in vegetable protection, nutritionists etc.)
- > Collaboration with the University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy; the project catalyzes efforts and help to strengthen relations among national institutions and organizations in Nepal
- > Implementation of a long-term APP. The Plan's strategy is to take advantage of the country's agro-climatic diversity through regional specialization and intensification of agricultural production

Overall Objective:
Contribute to improve farm income and food security

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$1 042 419

Participating countries:
Nepal

Duration:
3 years
From 01 Jan 2005 to 31 Dec 2007



- > Introduction of technologies for olive production and their upkeep the project introduces simple equipments and processing facilities for processing of olive oil in the villages
 - > Use of olive production and processing techniques at the family level and marketing consumption development
 - > Introduction of technologies and agricultural management practices to intensify production. While cereals and industrial products are part of the governments development policy for the Tarai region, for the hilly and mountainous regions the agriculture programme peoposes the expansion of the vegetables and livestock production
 - > Organization of an investigation in the central and western regions of Nepal to verify the presence of Indian olive tree (*Olea cuspidata*) and other wild species (*Olea Gandulifera*) inserted with european olive tree (*Olea europea*) which is a sort of edible oil of good quality common in the Mediterranean area
- **Expected results**
 - > Improvement of the drinkable water supply from natural sources. As a matter of fact the lack of drinking water represents a constraint to the olive processing
 - > Improvement of woman living conditions. The integration of variuos activities as cultivation of forestry land, activities connected with olive production and the provision of drinking water will aloon women to save time for productive activities
 - > Increasing the number of farmers dealing with olive production
 - > Improvement of farmers knowhow in olives culture
 - > Job creation and income generation for the farmers
 - **Ongoing results**
 - > Eradicating the problem of the shortage of fodder and fuel wood
 - > Participation of the whole family in the management and keeping of gardens and fruit gardens, with an increase in the family income
 - > Organization of training courses for the officers and technical staff of the government and the Ministry of Agriculture participating in the project
 - > Institution of a functional system to promote olive culture





GCP/PHI/050/ITA

Environmental Animal Health to Redress Emerging Insect-borne and other Disease Constraints to Smallholders' Livestock Production in the Philippines

Thematic area:
Sustainable food and agricultural systems

In the Republic of the Philippines, livestock is growing in importance and today it is regarded as a leading subsector of agriculture. Livestock is particularly important for smallholders and the rural population at large due to its contribution to income generation and welfare. Agricultural policies that sustain and support agrarian reforms require sound data on farming systems, suitable agro-ecological areas, and animal health and production dynamics. The emergence and spread of diseases in livestock is becoming major concern and requires immediate intervention.

The project identifies re-emerging livestock diseases as both a veterinary and a development problem and suggests addressing this, not just through conventional veterinary means but also through introducing environmental animal health through a multi-sectoral policy that integrates different components including, inter alia, public health, environmental and ecological issues and animal health and production.

■ Beneficiaries

- > National institutions interested in the livestock sector
- > Rural smallholders' livestock communities
- > Livestock producers and consumers in both rural and urban areas

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to promote activities of capacity building of livestock government agencies both at the national and local level, and sustaining a safer, more equitable and cleaner livestock production in the Philippines



The specific objectives are:

1. Identify re-emerging livestock diseases
2. Promotion of the environmental animal health strategies with particular attention to the small breeders
3. Formulation of a policy and of a technical scientific support to integrate this strategy in the public veterinary sector and within the Department of Agriculture

■ Strategies

- > Methodological approach developed, information generated and results transferred and used by countries in the region
- > Particular attention to the social-economic development of rural communities especially small breeders
- > Development of programmes aimed at diseases control in particular foot-and-mouth disease, swine fever and the newcastle disease, which have important economic implications

Overall Objective:
Promote activities of capacity building in the livestock sector

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$1 006 830

Participating countries:
Republic of the Philippines

Duration:
2 years and nine months
From 05 Sep 2005 to 30 May 2008



- > Multi-sectorial approach utilizing conventional methods applied to veterinary medicines as well as public health environmental and ecological aspects connected to animal production and health
 - > Promotion of sensibilization campaigns of breeders training in the animal sector
 - > Use of new bio-technologies and information technology instruments by technical staff of national institutions
 - > Preservation of the eco-system in the animal sector approach
- **Expected results**
- > Contribution to create a healthier and socio-economically viable animal production and health environment for increased returns
 - > Reduce and prevent public health hazard and risk
 - > Rationalize the use of natural resources
 - > Creation of an efficient information system on the spreading of diseases
 - > Strengthening of national capacity in the risks evaluation and its response
 - > Improved national control and response capacity to environmental disease risk and spread
- **Ongoing results**
- > Improvement of the conditions of the farmers, in particular livestock smallholders, and thus contribute to their livelihood sustenance
 - > Poverty reduction and improved local health conditions
 - > Improvement of the availability and of the accessibility of livestock and animal products through the improvement of the animal production ratio





GCP/VIE/027/ITA

Capacity Building, Extension, Demonstration and Support for the Development of Market-Oriented Agroforestry in Quang Nam Province, Viet Nam

Thematic area:
Sustainable food and agricultural systems

The diverse forests of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam have always been prominent in the history and culture of the Vietnamese people but their dependency upon forests has never been greater than it is today. The success of development strategies for achieving improved protection of watershed forests, wood production, and for the biological diversity conservation will depend to a considerable extent, on the implementation of policies and programmes based on the sustainable management of forests. In this context, the project GCP/VIE/020/ITA 'Country Capacity Strengthening for National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP) Implementation in Viet Nam', funded by the Government of Italy, was operative between 1995 and 2000. The project addressed issues related to forestry sector development planning, by providing assistance to local administrators and institutions. In this context and following the joint FAO/Italy mission fielded in 2002, project GCP/VIE/027/ITA was formulated. Through FAO technical assistance and funding from the Italian Government, the project intends to assist Viet Nam and the rural people in Quang Nam Province to maximize the benefits of forest land allocation by supporting the development of environmentally sound, sustainable and commercially profitable agroforestry systems.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Farmers
- > Rural development administrators
- > Women
- > Ethnic minorities



■ Objectives

The overall objective is to enhance rural livelihoods and contribute towards sustainable natural resources management in Quang Nam Province.

The specific objectives are:

1. Identify the technical, economic, and market constraints to, and the opportunities for, developing high-quality agroforestry systems for the production and sale by farmers of commercially profitable wood and non-wood forest products
2. Increase the technical, managerial, research and extension capacity for sustainable market-oriented agro forestry development
3. Strengthen appropriate support mechanisms to facilitate sustainable management and increased profitability of agroforestry systems

■ Strategies

- > Use of capacity building methodologies and demonstrations and the support to

Overall Objective:

Improve subsistence of rural people and to contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources in Quang Nam Province

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution:

US\$1 661 120

Participating countries:

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Duration:

3 years
From 11 Jul 2004
to 10 Jul 2007



- the sustainable development of high quality agro forestry systems
- > Maintaining sustainable forest ecosystems to meet the social, economic and cultural needs of present and future generations
- > Strengthening the capacity of Government and local institutions and rural households for the long-term sustainable management of agroforestry systems
- > Focus on identifying and removing the constraints to effective, commercially oriented agroforestry development in Quang Nam province
- > Institutional and policy support
- > Dissemination of technical knowledge related to agroforestry systems and to present marketing opportunities

■ **Expected results**

- > Increased technical capacity of local population for supporting market-oriented agro forestry through demonstrations of best management practices
- > Improvement of sustainable development
- > Poverty reduction

Ongoing results

- > Improvement of the capacity of both individual farmers and Government institutions, to increase the production of land through the implementation of technically sound, socially acceptable, and economically feasible agroforestry systems
- > Sustainable land-use in the central part of Viet Nam and improve the overall livelihood of the people of Quang Nam Province
- > Strengthening the capacity of rural households for the long-term sustainable management of agroforestry systems
- > Organization of training courses for local staff dealing with the participatory methods and the agro forestry systems





GCP/VIE/029/ITA

Integrated Management of Lagoon Activities in Thua Thien Hue Province, Viet Nam

Thematic area:
Sustainable food and agricultural systems

Every year during October and November in the middle of the Tropical Monsoon season, Central Viet Nam, in particular the Thua Thien Hue province, has to cope with some severe flooding. Fisheries, aquaculture and many other activities are paralyzed for some weeks. In most years some damage is caused to fishery equipment and to the existing aquaculture ponds in the lagoon area. Most of the hundreds of thousands of people living in the area are largely dependent on the activities they can carry out on the lagoon as aquaculture (shrimp, seaweed, and carp), fisheries, transport and tourism. However, all these activities put a high pressure on the lagoon system and the natural resources it offers. The uncontrolled construction of shrimp ponds and the establishment of fixed gears make it more and more difficult to reach all areas of the lagoon; neighbouring agriculture land is affected by the salinity which increased as a result of the removal of primary dykes to create shrimp ponds. Farmers and fisher folk are competing for the access of land and water resources because both want to diversify their activities and be less vulnerable in case of flooding or bad harvests.



■ Beneficiaries

- > People living on and around the lagoons
- > Aquaculturalists
- > Fishermens
- > Fishery traders
- > Governmental agencies

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to adopt an integrated management of the lagoon activities in the Province of Thua Thien Hue.

1. Understand the present issues in the lagoon

2. Identification of the priority issues in an effort to support the existing, and develop new management policies in order to improve people's livelihoods and reduce risks for poorer people who are dependent on the lagoon resources
3. To prepare for the implementation of the Management Plan, including preparation of the official enactment of the plan (credit, savings, organisational needs and investments)
4. Strengthen the provincial institutional capacity in such a way that the Management Plan
5. Dissemination of the results of the project on a national and international basis, so that others may replicate this example in other contexts

■ Strategies

- > Assessment of the impacts of the yearly floodings and the continuous pressure on the hydro-biological environment
- > Environment and hydro-biological survey (physico-chemical condition, hydro-biological resources assessment, trophic state, habitat inventory and conditions, pollutant distribution)

Overall Objective:
Apply an Integrated Management of Lagoon Activities (IMOLA) in the Thua Thien Hue province

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$1 494 990

Participating countries:
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Duration:
3 years and 8 months
From 01 Aug 2005 to 31 Jul 2008



- > Identification of required policies, institutional requirements to assist in improving livelihoods (including the possible settlement of the 'sampan' people)
 - > Assessment of legal aspects of lagoon aquaculture and fishery management
 - > Use of a gender approach. The woman integration in all activities is considered essential for the success of the project
 - > Adoption of a multi-temporal analysis of lagoon environment for vulnerability assessment
 - > Use of participatory methods to involve actively local communities in the management of their resources
 - > Fishery and aquaculture inventory to determine fishery resources, gears used, current exploitation levels in lagoon fishery development, current status of aquaculture, opportunities for aquaculture development in the lagoon
 - > Insert aquaculture in the fishery rules of the Province of Thua Thien Hue
 - > Technical collaboration with the University of Ancona
- **Expected results**
- > An Integrated Management Plan for the lagoon will be drafted, in a participatory manner
 - > The population living near and on the lagoon will have an increased awareness of the state of the hydro-biological resources and on how they could participate meaningfully in the management of the resources
 - > Investment and credit/saving opportunities will have been identified for fisherfolk, aquaculturists and fish trading middlepersons that will contribute to the sustainable use of the resources and the quality of the lagoon production
 - > Existing grass-root organisations of fisherfolk and aquaculturalists will have been strengthened to increase the sustainability of the lagoon management
 - > Improvement of the management of the lagoon resources
- **Ongoing results**
- > Finalization of an assessment study on the impacts of yearly floodings and on the sustainment of lagoon people
 - > Creation of a monitoring system on hydro-biological resources
 - > Development of a geographical information systems (GIS) based database and mapping system for bio-physical data generated by the project
 - > Identification of organizational, credit and insurance needs to develop a training course for the establishment of cooperatives, associations or solidarity groups
 - > Training materials and methodology for participatory rural appraisal (PRA) and sustainable livelihood analysis prepared and available
 - > Establishment of a website with access to all project reports, training materials, management plans, lessons learned and links to other relevant sites

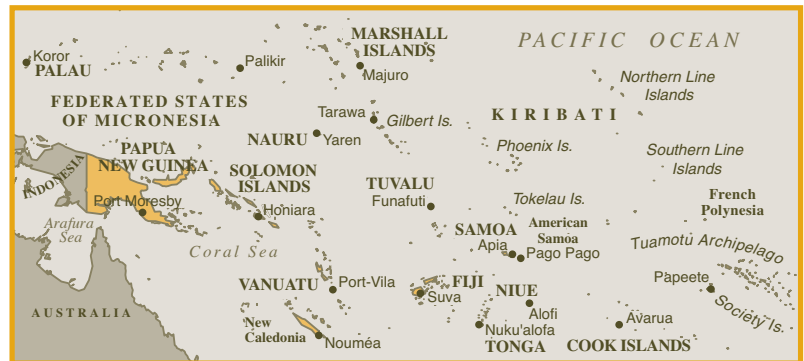


GTFS/RAS/198/ITA

Thematic area:
Food security

Support to the Regional Programme for Food Security in the Pacific Island Countries

Most of the population in Pacific island countries (PICs) lives in rural areas and relies on agriculture, forestry and fisheries as a source of food security. The 14 countries¹ participating to the project PICs face common constraints related to size, remoteness, geographic dispersion and vulnerability to natural hazards. Within these limitations, food security can be improved by supporting more efficient production without compromising the environment, reducing post harvest losses and technology gaps as well as increasing trade, human resources and institutional capacity.



■ Beneficiaries

- People living in vulnerable areas
- Women and youth
- Rural households
- Producers who diversify crops and interact better with markets
- Researchers and technicians trained to development

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to improve regional food security by means of trade policies, market access of trade crops.

The specific objectives are:

- Improve food security, efficiency, productivity and trading systems
- Strengthen agricultural trade and policy capacity through the establishment of sanitary and phytosanitary pathways for export to regional and international markets

■ Strategies

- > Increasing ownership within the region through a full participatory bottom-up approach at all levels
- > Increasing capacity of regional and national institutions, academic and research bodies by assuring their constant participation in project activities
- > Promoting complementarity and

- collaboration with ongoing programmes targeting food security in the region
- > Improvement of trade supporting services in line with the requirements of international free trade agreements
- > Promoting debate on regional integration and strengthening regional and national commitments for project implementation

■ Expected results

- > Diversified and intensified crop production based on country comparative advantages, through pilot activities providing elements for sound national and regional agriculture and trade policies
- > National trade policies in line with the changing international trade pattern
- > Elaborated and validated trade regulatory framework on food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary
- > Increased regional and national awareness of food

■ Ongoing results

- > Implementation of regional activities involves the Italian national institute for agricultural economics (INEA) as well as the Secretariat of the Pacific Communities (SPC)
- > Organization of a course on trade policy, market barriers and targeting of market niches

Overall Objective:

Reduced food imports and related foreign exchange expenditure for food security

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution:

US\$4 500 000

Participating countries:

Pacific Island Countries

Duration:

3 years
From 03 May 2004
to 02 May 2007

1. Participating countries: Cook Islands, the Federate States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanatu

Thematic area:
Sustainable
food and
agricultural
systems

Agricultural Production Support in Albania



finishing in 1997. However, particularly in the capacity-building sector, major needs still had to be met to establish a sustainable after sale service and equipment supply to inform potential clients about technical options available. To address these additional issues the project GCP/ALB/005/ITA, funded by the Government of Italy from end 2002 to 2006, was designed. The project is funded under the multi-bilateral programme.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Farmers of six selected communes of the coastal plain
- > Women
- > Albanian consumers

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to assist farmers and agriculture cooperatives in the development of complete food chain in the Albanian food market.

The specific objectives are:

1. increase production and marketing of:
 - > milk and dairy products
 - > fruits and vegetables products
 - > quality grapes and wine
 - > olive fruits and oil
2. Strengthening of links between individual farms, farmer organizations and food processing and marketing
3. Provide capacity building through the creation of training courses

■ Strategies

- > Continuous training on the work of local farmers and assistants to producers. 2 seminars were organized for the preparation and testing of wine with particular attention to best practices for the production of high quality wine
- > Study tours in the Umbria Region, organized in collaboration with the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari for Albanian producers

Overall Objective:
Assisted farmers
in the development
of complete food
chains

Donor:
Government of
Italy

Contribution:
US\$7 002 111

**Participating
countries:**
Albania

Duration:
4 years and 2
months
From 01 Nov 2002
to 31 Dec 2006

The main constraints of agriculture in the Republic of Albania have been poor infrastructure and in particular the lack of adequate marketing structures that would support the development of agriculture production and agriculture processing. This is reflected in the high food imports. In addition, more than 60 percent of the Albanian population lives in rural areas. Therefore, agriculture could have an important function for income generation and rural livelihood. The difficult situation and the increase of the unemployment rate due to the lack of alternative employment results in migration flows from rural to urban areas and emigration.

To improve agricultural production, a cost effective supply of quality equipment is still required to address the existing demand and bring about technical progress. The project's first phase, project GCP/ALB/003/ITA, identified a strong demand for all kinds of agricultural equipment revealing a dynamic development in the market for these items. Project GCP/ALB/003/ITA had a two year duration starting in 1995 and



- > Technical equipment purchased for each target sector (i.e. light tractors, milking machines, etc.)
- > In-country tours, field visits and field demonstrations have also been a widely used tool for the dissemination of different improvements in the various sectors
- > Assist farmers in improving the farming efficiency and performance of the vine growers through improved cultivations systems targeting grape tending structure, pruning systems, fertilization, irrigation, and pest and diseases management, etc
- > Assist members of grape growing and wine making associations to improve mechanization level through supplying appropriate tools and equipment for agronomic operations
- > Assisting the vine growers to organize and improve the production and harvesting campaign, based on grape ripening and sugar content accumulation and proper scheduling of harvesting and transportation to the winery
- > Prepare and disseminate extension and content-specific training materials (leaflets) on grape growing including qualitative agronomic-specifications of rootstocks and varieties that are supported by the project
- > Organize in-country field visits with members of grape growing and wine making associations to more advanced grape growing areas to learn from experience and to get exposed to new production realities

■ **Expected results**

- > Increase quantity and quality of marketed milk and dairy products
- > Increased production and marketing of quality fresh/processed fruits & vegetables
- > Increased production and marketing of quality grape, wine, olive fruits and oil
- > Established and functional rural market facility and slaughterhouse facilities and functional ICT network/services within Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection (MAFCP)
- > Strengthening of agricultural associations and promotion of consumer education as a fundamental step towards the commercialization and improvement of competitive in the sector

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Increased quantity and quality of marketed milk and dairy products In Dajci and Ana e Malit communes of Shkodra district, north Albania
- > Increased production and marketing of quality grape and wine, fresh fruits and vegetables
- > Established and functional rural market facility in Durres area
- > Established and functional slaughterhouse facilities
- > Progress in the infrastructural and technological renewal of the dairy sector
- > Albanian producers learnt the use of improve techniques in various sectors such as fruit and wine production, post-harvest and associationism



Geographic area:
Europe

GCP/BIH/002/ITA

Thematic area:
Sustainable
food and
agricultural
systems

Inventory of Post-War Situation of Land Resources in Bosnia and Herzegovina



subsequently extended until 30 June 2007 with a new contribution bringing the total project funds to US\$3 438 154. The project is funded under the multi-bilateral programme.

■ Beneficiaries

- > The staff of concerned Institutes, Ministries and Organizations in the country will benefit from the project.
- > Other Institutes and Ministries, which will have an interest in the outputs of the project, - or as a client of the result produced, or as providers of data and specific expertise and which will be involved in a co-ordination committee guided by the Institute of Agro-pedology
- > The direct users of these materials such as policy makers at the highest level and farmers in need for diversified and enhanced production methods

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to provide essential information on land resources, capability and risks following the war. Understanding the war damage and the state and quality of land in Bosnia Herzegovina along with the information management tools supporting that understanding will represent a valuable tool for the optimisation and allocation of emergency and agricultural rehabilitation intervention resources to the agricultural sector and to the vulnerable population in rural areas.

The specific objectives are:

1. To strengthen the Institute of Agro-pedology in Sarajevo with appropriate equipment including laboratory and GIS, and training to enable the carrying out of surveys, analysis and interpretation of data on land resources leading to policy advice for planning and agricultural use
2. To prepare a comprehensive land inventory of resources in Bosnia Herzegovina with maps and digital

Overall Objective:
Provide essential
information on
land resources,
capability and
risks following
the war

Donor:
Government of
Italy

Contribution:
US\$3 438 154

**Participating
countries:**
Republic of
Bosnia and
Herzegovina

Duration:
6 years
From 22 May 2000
to 30 June 2007

Agriculture has always played an important role in Bosnia and Herzegovina's economy, providing full or part-time employment to some 40 percent of its population. The conflict which took place between 1990 and 1995 had a devastating effect on agriculture and production. At the end of the war, nearly 80 percent of the population depended on imported donor food aid. Furthermore, a large part of land was mined and the difficulties of the land mine clearing activity have had a profound impact on agricultural production.

Given the above situation, the preparation of a database and maps with relevant agricultural information on land resources in the country is considered a high priority by the government and as a basic pre-requisite for planning and implementation of emergency and agricultural rehabilitation interventions. This led the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Government of Italy and FAO to start the present project GCP/BIH/002/ITA with an initial contribution of US\$1 013 110. After the initial 29 months, the project was



- material prepared at an equivalent scale of 1:200.000, including information on agricultural land affected by mines and data needed for evaluation of land quality and agro-ecological zoning
3. To prepare reports on the state and potential of land resources in Bosnia and Herzegovina

■ Strategies

- > Four training courses were also delivered with the support of international consultants on soil and terrain database, agro-ecological zoning (AEZ), remote sensing and geographical information systems (GIS)
- > Three students from the University of Sarajevo participated in a training course on the use of GIS for land resources management. The training course was carried out at the Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare in Florence, Italy
- > Intensive participatory activity by establishing workgroups at a municipal level in three pilot areas: Sanski Most, Prnjavor and Stolac. Under the guidance of a regional coordinator, the workgroups have defined a portfolio of operational initiatives for rural development in each pilot area. Similar initiatives have been organized in other municipalities (Srebrenica, Bratunac and Milici) aimed at involving local stakeholders in the planning activity, with the collaboration of two international consultants and of an additional regional coordinator
- > Training provided by the project covered the democratization process, with an emphasis on bringing land administration closer to its intended beneficiaries and facilitating the active local participation in the planning and implementation of resource management activities

■ Expected results

- > Provided Bosnian authorities of a modern tool with methodologies and guidelines for land resource management and land use planning, which will improve the decision makers capacity for priority setting in land use matters, in particular in rural areas. This tool includes a comprehensive set of data and digitized information characterizing the natural resource base of the country

- > Improved relations between the population and the local institutions, which were deteriorated during the war
- > Improved motivation of participants, better communication and strengthened links among the different ethnic communities
- > Strengthened of institutional capacities related to the soil management
- > Creation of a group of human resources able to manage the decisional process in the public and private sectors

■ Ongoing results

- > Creation of a soil, terrain and climate digital database for the entire country, and produced about 15 thematic maps on soil and terrain, land use and land cover, climate and mine risk
- > Development of a soil management model based on the methodology of agro-ecological areas, as a priority of the project
- > Finalizing the study on farming systems in the pilot areas where ecological and economic criteria for soil evaluation have been applied
- > Establishment of a solid cooperation with the UN Development Programme in Srebrenica, also through the signature of a letter of agreement. A focal point has been identified in each municipalities and small support teams have been created with the coordination of an FAO technician
- > Publication of two documents: the Guidelines for Participatory Land Use Development in the Municipalities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Land Utilization Types. These two papers have been distributed freely to every municipality of the country and many other national and international institutions and are already being used as a basis for planning activities



Geographic area:
Europe

GTFS/RER/017/ITA

Thematic area:
Sustainable
food and
agricultural
systems

Integrated Pest Management for Western Corn Rootworm in Central and Eastern Europe



The specific objectives are:

1. Establish an IPM participatory training and research programme based on farmer field schools (FFS)
2. Understand the spread of WCR
3. Understand socio-economic aspects relevant to WCR management in specific local contexts

■ Strategies

- > Create a regional framework for human capacities development
- > Conduct pilot training programs
- > Develop monitoring and assessment of project activities
- > Conduct studies on local agro-biodiversity components
- > Raise awareness on the role of biodiversity in IPM and crop management
- > Supporting policy development at national and regional level

■ Expected results

- > A regional framework of staff trained on IPM research
- > 500 trained farmers per country
- > Development of a participatory monitoring-assessment component
- > Strengthened WCR regional network to coordinate WCR
- > Completion of studies on socio-economic aspects of corn production

■ Ongoing results

- > Training courses for facilitators and farmers was conducted in each country involved in the project
- > A regional network of trained staff was created with regional workshop training content focused on WCR, and IPM
- > Participatory research/field studies were initiated on biodiversity
- > Increase of awareness and regional cooperation among various communities on the WCR problem

Overall Objective:
Protect maize
production
through integrated
pest management

Donor:
Government of
Italy

Contribution:
US\$2 260 000

**Participating
countries:**
Bulgaria, Croatia,
Hungary,
Montenegro,
Republic of Bosnia
and Herzegovina,
Romania, Republic
of Serbia, Slovak
Republic

Duration:
4 years and
5 months
From 01 Jul 2003
to 31 Dec 2007

Maize is a key crop for food security in Central and Eastern Europe but its production is in danger because of a new invasive species: the Western Corn Rootworm – WCR (*Diabrotica virgifera*). It affects approximately 300 000 sq. Km which include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and the Slovak Republic. The present regional project enables the above-mentioned countries to develop Integrated pest management (IPM) strategies using participatory research and training approaches to effectively manage the pest at field level and contain its spread.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Farmers
- > Staff from national governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- > National institutions

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to protect corn production in Central Europe from losses caused by WCR through the development of IPM



GTFS/REM/070/ITA

Regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme in the Near East

Thematic area:
Sustainable food and agricultural systems

The use of pesticides in the Near East Region is associated with growing health and environmental problems. Standards on pesticides residues, in particular, for export to Western markets, are becoming more stringent. Consumer concern about food safety is creating markets for food products of better quality. The project, which is financed by the extraordinary Italian Contribution to the FAO Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety, strengthens the capability of governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and farming communities of participating countries to plan and implement programs which support community-based integrated pest management (IPM). This strategy contributes to the protection of farming communities, their environment and consumers, and to the expansion of high value crop markets.



■ Beneficiaries

- > Farmers and communities
- > Women
- > Consumers
- > National institutions
- > Local and international market

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to sustain food security and the nutritional status of the rural population

The specific objectives are:

1. Increase of farmers' participatory approaches in crop and pest management
2. Better understanding of hazards caused by pesticides
3. Investigation of market opportunities for IPM products
4. Facilitation of exchanges of expertise and implement pilot activities in the sector

■ Strategies

- > Improvement of regional capacity to develop and implement ecologically based pest management

- > Enabling farming communities to develop curricula and strategies for horticultural crop production
- > Supporting regional and national studies related to IPM development
- > Training of farmers and facilitators
- > Adopting cost effective integrated horticulture pest management strategies
- > Strengthening local institutions
- > Adoption of a participatory approach

■ Expected results

- > Strengthened analysis, planning capacity and awareness at community and institutional levels on IPM tactics and related health issues and environment protection
- > Agricultural school opening
- > Improvement quality and quantity agricultural production

■ Ongoing results

- > Creation of 200 agricultural schools
- > 3000 farmers and 100 facilitators trained
- > Improvement quality and quantity of selected produce through the adoption of IPM technologies
- > Establishment of a network on IPM among involved stakeholders, including farmers and local communities

Overall Objective:
Contribute to the achievement of food security through an integrated pest management approach

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$2 982 633

Participating countries:
Egypt, Islamic Republic Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian Territories, Syrian Arab Republic

Duration:
2 years and 6 months
From 01 Apr 2004 to 30 Sep 2006



GCP/SYR/010/ITA

Thematic area:
Sustainable
food and
agricultural
systems

Participatory and Integrated Forest Fires Management Plan



in forested areas to maximize the benefits of forests by supporting the development of environmentally sound fire management practises.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Small holders
- > Technical forest staff
- > Forest communities
- > Women through their active involvement in project activities concerning forest fires management

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to improve the national capability to manage fires in an integrated way, enabling the country to prepare a national Forest Fire Management Plan.

Immediate objectives:

1. National strategy for forest fire management prepared together with multiple level stakeholders
2. National forestry staff trained on implementing Integrated Forest Fire Management (IFFM) approaches
3. National Forest Fire Management Campaign implemented
4. Institutional, administrative and technical development which involves the strengthening of capacities and involvement of local communities in the forest fire management
5. Draft national forest fire management plan prepared

■ Strategies

- > Training of Syrian staff at central and provincial level to design an integrated and participatory programme on fire management
- > Design a National Forest Fire Management Campaign
- > Prepare national fire awareness material involving local artists and media
- > Work on gradual involvement of local communities and other stakeholders in the

Overall Objective:

To assist the Syrian Government and people living in forestry areas to optimize the benefits coming from the forests and to develop management programmes to control forest fires

Donor:

Government of Italy

Contribution:

US\$1 031 592

Participating countries:

Syrian Arab Republic

Duration:

3 years
From 01 Aug 2004
to 31 Feb 2007

The importance of forest should not be underestimated in a country as widely arid as the Syrian Arab Republic, where the forests provide stable feed for large number of grazing animals, plays a significant role in water catchment, in desertification control and in prevention of soil erosion and in conservation of biodiversity.

Forest fire in Syria is primarily a social problem. In fact, more than 95 percent of the annual fires are set directly by rural people living in and around forests and/or indirectly by their related activities (agricultural activities like grazing within forest stands, conversion of forest lands to agriculture and house construction, etc.).

Previous assistance to the country in forest fire management, has concentrated on developing the country's capacities in fire detection and control; this project is aiming at strengthening the capacities in fire prevention and preparedness through a multisectoral approach with the direct involvement of local communities.

In this context, through FAO technical assistance and funding from the Italian Government the present project intends to assist the government and the rural people



- selected project sites, in implementing the national strategy in mitigating fire impacts on the sustainable use of forest resources
- > Identify existing and potential benefits for forest villagers
 - > Support to sustainable activities linked with the conservation of forest biodiversity and the reduction of deterioration process and desertification
 - > Strengthening the collaboration and complementarities with other institutions and agencies working in forest fire control, including international organizations like the FAO, the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), Silva Mediterranea, etc..
 - > Prepare an International Agreement on crossborder actions in case of fire transboundary emergencies

■ **Expected results**

- > Revision of the legislation governing forest fire management prepared together with local communities
- > Training of Syrian staff at central and provincial level to design an integrated and participatory programme on fire management
- > Adoption of institutional and legislative changes to contribute to implement the local people participation
- > Introduction of new techniques to protect the forests
- > Draft national forest fire management plan finalized

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Training of forest officers and project staff. Besides on the job training 20 national operators attended a course. The subjects matters were: management of forest fires and their monitoring, people participation and realization of a sensibilization campaign
- > National Forest Fire management Campaign being implemented. To this effect a slogan has been created: "Together to protect our forests", a logo has been selected among those proposed by local artists, pamphlets and posters have been designed and meeting have taken place with various groups of woman, school children and farmers
- > Organization of a national seminar on forestry legislation with the participation of representatives from all the groups involved. The seminar introduced the role and the importance of forestry policy as well as of the methodologies for their formulation and the sensibilization in the forestry fires management
- > Institution of training courses forestry environment and social impact of the fire control participative management
- > Fire prevention through the creation of new fire resistant species along the fire cutting-lines and the roads. These green barriers are made of laurel (*Laurus Nobilis*) and Carrube (*Ceratonia Siliqua*) planted in one or two lines





Geographic area:

Mediterranean and Near East

GCP/TUN/028/ITA

Thematic area:
Sustainable
food and
agricultural
systems

Soil and Water Conservation Programme in the Governorates of Kairouan, Siliana and Zaghouan, Tunisia



March 1999. Project GCP/TUN/028/ITA is also executed in the context of the 2002 UN International Year of Mountains and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. The project also draws from lessons learned through the Tunisia component of the pilot project GCP/INT/542/ITA, which represented a successful case of improved use of natural resources through the participatory approach and the partnership among local population, technical services, local administration, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Overall Objective:
To increase food security in marginal areas, to develop sustainable agricultural production, protect the soil and preserve the biodiversity

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$12 479 788

Participating countries:
Tunisia

Duration:
10 years and five months
From 01 Jun 1996
to 31 Oct 2006

The case of the Republic of Tunisia represents a good example of success in relation to the improvement of food security, and documents presented at the World Food Summit held in 1996 showed the increase in food production reached by the country. Despite this positive evolution in food security, instability in agricultural production still represents a problem in some more difficult areas of the country. This is why the improvement of the duration and effectiveness of interventions for the conservation of natural resources has become a national priority, which also highlights the need for an active participation of the local population in development activities.

Project GCP/TUN/028/ITA has been designed in the framework of the national soil and water conservation policies and is in line with the described participatory approach applied by the Government of Tunisia. Moreover the project is funded under the multi-bilateral programme and is part of a wider framework agreement between Italy and Tunisia 'Programme intégré pour la mise en valeur des régions du Sahara et du Sud de la Tunisie', signed in

■ Beneficiaries

- > Farmers
- > Rural communities

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to improve food security in marginal areas, to develop sustainable agricultural production, protect the soil, and preserve the biodiversity.

The specific objectives are:

1. Ensure the sustainable management of natural resources
2. Strengthen the partnership system at the national and sub-national levels in the framework of the decentralization process of the public administration of the government

■ Strategies

- > A multi-scale approach is adopted to intervene in an effective way at local, regional and national levels; the area of intervention in the Governorates of Kairouan, Siliana and Zaghouan covers approximately 80 000 ha and the total number of beneficiaries is of about 20 000 people
- > Promotion of the transition from informal farmer association to legally recognized agricultural development groups (GDA)



- > Other agreements have been established with national and international institutions, the private sector and NGOs in the framework of the creation of a permanent collaborative network. Collaborations, among others, have been developed in Italy with the University of Turin, the Italian NGO Cooperazione Internazionale Sud Sud and, in Tunisia, with the Tunis National Institute of Agriculture, the Bureau of Animal Breeding and Pasture and Kef's High school of Agriculture. The participation to international networks and programmes like 'World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Techniques', 'Land Degradation Assessment' and 'Global Land Cover Network' has also been supported
 - > Promotion of the partnership between the farmers and other development stakeholders which could create further investments
 - > Promotion of local development through the realization of basic infrastructures, training, irrigation, improvement of agricultural practices and creation of income generating activities based on micro-credit
- **Expected results**
- > Delimitation of homogeneous socio-territorial units (UST)
 - > Production of participatory development plans (PDP)
 - > Development of infrastructure
 - > Implementation of soil and water conservation measures
 - > Support to income generating activities
 - > Development of a monitoring and evaluation system
- > Development of decision support tools based on integrated information systems
 - > Production and distribution of technical papers and guidelines
 - > Training of national officers
 - > Development of GDAs in self-development entities through which farmers will cooperate and will be able to act in the agricultural market with the establishment of GDAs in each region
- **Ongoing results**
- > 43 km of roads have been built or restored and 55 km of drinking water distribution points developed
 - > Delivery of electricity to beneficiary families
 - > 3000 ha of land have been directly protected from soil erosion through terracing
 - > Some hundred hectares of lands have been recovered and put to production planting olive and fruit trees that have been planted, also as an erosion preventing initiative
 - > Conservation techniques derived from traditional practices have been promoted
 - > Creation of informal farmer associations that engage themselves to support development and assure the execution of the activities agreed in the PDP: so far 30 UST signed a PDP and become active partners of the project
 - > Improvement of the sustainability of the soil and water protection
 - > Realization of basic infrastructure, training, irrigation, improvement of agricultural practices and promotion of income generating activities to be supported by micro credit



Thematic area:
Sustainable
food and
agricultural
systems

Upgrade of Refrigeration Infrastructure in the Fishing Ports of Tunisia



capacity of the installations was considered out of service by the survey. The present project is part of a wider framework agreement between Italy and Tunisia and is funded under the multi-bilateral programme.

■ **Beneficiaries**

- > Public sector staff operating in fishery
- > Fishermen
- > National and international consumers

■ **Objectives**

The overall objective is to improve the public sector of cold chains managed by APIP

The specific objectives are:

1. Improvement of the equipment of the refrigeration infrastructure in the harbours and creation of maintenance systems
2. Upgrade refrigeration infrastructure in the harbours to address adequately the market requirements
3. Enhancing managerial capacities, including in particular financial and personnel management

■ **Strategies**

- > Coordination of all project activities
- > Involvement of refrigeration technicians as well as managers of the APIP which will be undertaken at local level with the collaboration of the specialized Tunisian institutions
- > Acquisition of furniture and equipment through tenders
- > Training of technicians and managers of the fishery sector
- > Organization of an international seminar on public enterprises connected to fishing

■ **Expected results**

- > Improvement of the infrastructures inside the ports as one of the assets to improve

Overall Objective:
Development of cold chains for product marketing

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$1 007 542

Participating countries:
Tunisia

Duration:
3 years and 8 months
From 14 Apr 2003 to 31 Dec 2006

The development of the fisheries sector is closely linked with the development of cold chains for product marketing. Refrigeration is essential to maintain product quality and hence in determining the price of the products. Upgrading the equipment and management of the refrigeration infrastructure is required to respond in an adequate way to the requirements imposed by national and international markets.

The fisheries sector in Tunisia presents a notable dichotomy. There is, on the one hand, the private sector that is investing resources to develop the sector and, on the other hand, the Tunisian governmental institution, Agence des Ports et des Installations de Pêche (APIP), which presents various problems. At present APIP is managing 40 ports badly inadequately equipped and managed. A recent survey of the Italian Cooperation revealed the absence of adequate refrigerating infrastructures in many of these ports. Moreover, even in the ports where these infrastructures exist, the refrigerating powers installed are underexploited. Indeed, more than 50 percent of the



- the commercial relations of Tunisia with other foreign countries and in particular with the European Union
 - > Adequate public sector facilities for the production and handling of ice, for chilled storage of fishery products and for marketing
 - > Public sector staff capabilities strengthened for technical maintenance and for management of the facilities
 - > Renewal of refrigeration infrastructures
- **Ongoing results**
 - > A letter of agreement was signed with APIP
 - > Establishment of a coordination unit
 - > Identification of the head of the coordination unit. The unit has held two meetings to discuss and revise the workplan in order to adapt it to the emerging project needs
 - > Purchased vehicles designed for maintenance, and necessary equipment for the project activities
 - > Organization of several training courses to assist APIP in the development of its functions to conform to the requirements of the markets, in particular those of the European Union

GCP/TUN/030/ITA





Thematic area:
Knowledge exchange and policy

Agricultural Planning and Policy Analysis in Syria



formulation and policy analysis functions within the ministry, as well as training activities.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Staff of the National Agricultural Policy Center (NAPC)
- > Staff member of MAAR and other relevant public institutions and parastatal, political and professional organizations related to agricultural policy
- > Farmers, traders and other agents involved in the agricultural marketing and processing chain
- > Consumers
- > The economy as a whole is expected to gain from the project, in terms of sustainability and effective functionality of the NAPC

■ Objective

The overall objective is to promote institutional capacity of MAAR and to improve ministerial analysis, formulation and monitoring ministerial capabilities in the field of agricultural policies.

The specific objectives are:

1. Training of a specialized team for the management of the national Centre of Agricultural policies
2. Improve the adequacy of basic statistical information for the analysis of agricultural policies facilitating their diffusion and use
3. Strengthen NAPC to contribute to the agricultural and economic development of the country increasing both the institutional and managerial capacity and facilitating the use and diffusion of databases

■ Strategies

- > Transfer of project operations to the FAO Representation in Damascus and henceforth its direct involvement and

Overall Objective:
Contribute to agricultural and economic development

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$9 080 574

Participating countries:
Syrian Arab Republic

Duration:
10 years and seven months
From 01 Apr 1997 to 31 Oct 2007

The economy of the Syrian Arab Republic has long been characterized as centrally planned and the agricultural sector, which still maintains a major role in the country economy, was no exception. When in the mid 1980s the Government of Syria initiated a policy reform process towards a market-oriented economy, the Agricultural Planning and Statistics Directorate (APSD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) was entrusted with the implementation of the agricultural policy reform programme. In light of the above-mentioned political developments, the Government of Syria requested technical assistance for the elaboration, development and analysis of agricultural policies. Project GCP/SYR/006/ITA - was thus started in 1998 to strengthen national policies and the development of a market economy. In November 2001 the project entered a three-year Phase II aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the results achieved. In particular, one of the main achievements of GCP/SYR/006/ITA Phase I, was the establishment of the National Agricultural Policy Centre within MAAR. This centre was established to perform agricultural



support to project activities, allows for a reduced presence of full time resident experts and for relaxing the working language constraint

- > Organization of short-training courses abroad for NAPC staff at research and academic institutions and their participation to international symposium conferences and seminars. This participation will strengthen the links with other international institutions
- > Organization of frequent technical support missions
- > Increase the NAPC staff and creation of a library scientific committee
- > Institution of various English and internet training courses. NAPC staff took part in the political forum initiative in the course of the seminar organized by the centre in cooperation with FAO, as well as in a number of seminars held internally on various political and technical subjects
- > Organize overseas post-graduate training at the Master level for the 5 NAPC professional staff who were the best among those trained in the first phase of the project

■ Expected results

- > Implementation of adequate tools to measure the impact of political reforms in the agriculture framework
- > Launching the institutional reform process
- > Better management of NAPC

■ Ongoing results

- > Production of two reports of the restructuring of MAAR and on the role of NAPC composed of a scientific and consulting committee
- > Assistance to NAPC for the creation of the first electronic database in English and Arabic. Moreover additional 15 basic and specialized courses for 50 government officers. Individual seminars and courses were also offered
- > The NAPC intranet (NAPnet) has been renewed, improved and translated into Arabic. It has also been enriched with seven NAPC training documents. The paper 'Implementation of the Great Arab Free Trade Area Agreement: The Case of Syria' has been finalized in English. Furthermore, a study on 'Accession to the World Trade Organization: procedures, issues and lessons for Syria', has been completed. This last study aims at supporting the on-going debate on reforming agricultural policy intervention compatibly with the constraints that might derive from WTO
- > Production of 14 studies which results have been used by the government of Syria to elaborate sustainable agriculture development strategy
- > Didactic material both in Arabic and English supplied for the execution
- > Selection of an international consultant in the field of institutional development
- > Four members of the centre have successfully completed a Master in the USA and 4 have started their training in post-graduate distance learning programmes at the Imperial College of London. Three members were trained in France on comparative costs



Thematic area:
Knowledge exchange and policy

Institutional Development of Organic Agriculture in Syria



a major challenge in the lack of national legislation and in the use of prevailing confusion that still exists in the mind of many decision makers concerning organic farming.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Farmers
- > Pastoralists
- > Fruit and olive growers
- > Traders
- > Agribusiness entrepreneurs
- > Consumers

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to prepare the ground for the establishment of an institutional framework for the development of organic agriculture including legal, institutional and training aspects

The specific objectives are:

1. Make a proposal for the implementation of a national legislation and its regulation. This would be based on the knowledge and experience of countries with long experience and legal frameworks in this area. These may include the European Union (EU) and the US, which have promoted international standards and to which the Syrian legislation would need to adapt to be able to export to their markets
2. Produce a proposal for the creation of an association of organic producers that would be legally recognized. This will give the opportunity to analyze the organization, functions, tasks, personnel and budget of similar associations
3. Put forward a proposal for setting up a legally recognized certification body. The entity would need to be integrated into the existing international system of certification and accreditation, as required by international trade system and by the EU regulations covering agro food trade with other countries. This

Overall objective:
Facilitating the realization of a platform for the sustainable development of organic farming in Syria

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$999 954

Participating countries:
Syrian Arab Republic

Duration:
3 years
From 13 Sep 2005
to 12 Sep 2008

Agriculture is one of the most important sectors of the Syrian economy as shown by its contribution to GDP and to employment, around 30 percent in year 2000. It also gives a significant contribution to the balance of payments, as agricultural exports are second only to crude oil.

Syrian agriculture is characterized by a large number of small-scale farms that operate traditional management systems, and a smaller number of large-scale state farms and mixed private and public joint ventures. Almost all raw or processed organic products are exported to the European market, and certification is generally granted by foreign Certification Bodies. Tunisia is the only country within the Near East and North Africa with a national legislation. Nevertheless, Governments of several other countries are currently working on its elaboration.

The Syrian Government has shown a growing interest in this form of agriculture, recognizing that organic agriculture contributes to food security by enhancing household self-sufficiency and by building farmers' self-reliance. Nonetheless, this dynamism meets



- action will be based mostly on the analysis of international regulations, enriched by visits to Italy and Tunisia
4. Strengthen human resources capacity in organic farming: the project will provide capacity building, working both on the technical and the methodological aspects of organic farming research within an international setting. This is expected to create in the future a critical mass of technicians and advisors who could provide information and guidance to farmers and breeders
 5. Assess the market in order to identify the products which could be more easily converted into organic and the areas where such products have more chances to achieve good yields and adequate returns, also taking into account the demand of foreign markets and the potential Syrian consumers

■ Strategies

- > Use of a synergic intervention of several actors to create a scientific and legal platform with the active participation of researchers, producers, entrepreneurs and traders
- > Promotion of a more efficient and rational use of natural resources in general and land and water in particular
- > Analyse national legislations and EU regulations: this action will support the acquisition of legislation, its comparative analysis, the knowledge and experiences in other countries
- > One study tour of ten days, for 20 people in Italy. The study tour will allow the participants to understand the different roles of the various actors (public, private and non-governmental organizations – NGOs) in the research, diffusion, marketing, certification, control, etc., through visits and meetings with Italian and international experts
- > Organization of seminars to improve people participation in the biological agriculture issue
- > Elaborate proposal for a legislative framework and regulations adapted to the Syrian situation, aiming at guaranteeing acceptance of Syrian products into the international markets, with specific reference to EU and USA
- > Study about certification procedures for quality products

- > One week stage for five people at a selected certification body in Italy will allow to acquire first hand knowledge of the complexity of the certification procedures and of its organization
- > Elaboration of didactic materials, to be used in the planned training courses
- > Participation of six scientists in international scientific and organizational events to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences

■ Expected results

- > Training of technicians, scientists and representatives of agricultural associations on all the aspects of biological agriculture
- > Extended areas for biological cultures. This process is required by the growing demand of biological products and by agricultural policies concerning sustainable environmental development
- > Elaboration of guidelines for the establishment of a certification body
- > Information, training and education of an adequate number of Syrian nationals (technicians, scientists and opinion leaders)
- > An applied research program defined and partially implemented

■ Ongoing results

- > Develop a proposal for national legislation and related regulation
- > Develop the proposal for the organization of a certification body to be legally established
- > Development of human and technical resources
- > Identification and development of markets for organic agriculture





Geographic area:

Mediterranean and Near East

GTFS/PAL/022/ITA

Thematic area:
Food security

West Bank and Gaza Strip: Agricultural Revitalization Programme



The specific objectives are:

1. Rehabilitate the basic production and the small infrastructures, when inadequate or damaged
2. Increase the availability and efficient use of natural resources (land, water, and genetic resources)
3. Reduce production costs and increase production yields in terms of quality and marketability
4. Introduce and propagate new management practices
5. Development of local capacities

■ Strategies

- > Support the provision of inputs and the rehabilitation of assets and infrastructure to achieve long term objectives of sustainable development, such as the more efficient use of natural resources and the build of local capacities
- > Building new infrastructures and training of human resources
- > Adoption of appropriate techniques to reduce the soil erosion process and the degradation of the the natural resources
- > Creation of working opportunities in the rural areas
- > Focus project activities on the reduction of the rural poverty
- > Strengthening the capacity of the staff of the Departments of Agriculture in 4 districts, as these are considered to be the key players in providing technical and managerial advice to relatively isolated farmers
- > Strengthening the skills of the Ministry of Agriculture in agricultural trade negotiations
- > Introduce appropriate managerial practices in the agricultural and pastoral sectors

Overall Objective:
Strengthen food security, fight poverty, and create rural employment

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$1 500 000

Participating countries:
Palestinian Territories

Duration:
2 years
From 15 Aug 2004
to 31 Dec 2006

The agriculture sector in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is vital as it represents a refuge against poverty and an important source of food security and employment for an increasing share of the population. In order to prevent the sector from a further collapse, an Agriculture Revitalization Programme (ARP) was prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, Palestinian Authority, supported by FAO and the United Nations development programme (UNDP).

■ Beneficiaries

- > Rural communities
- > non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- > Universities
- > Rural associations

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to improve the rural environment, with specific reference to food security, poverty reduction, rural employment, and income increase.

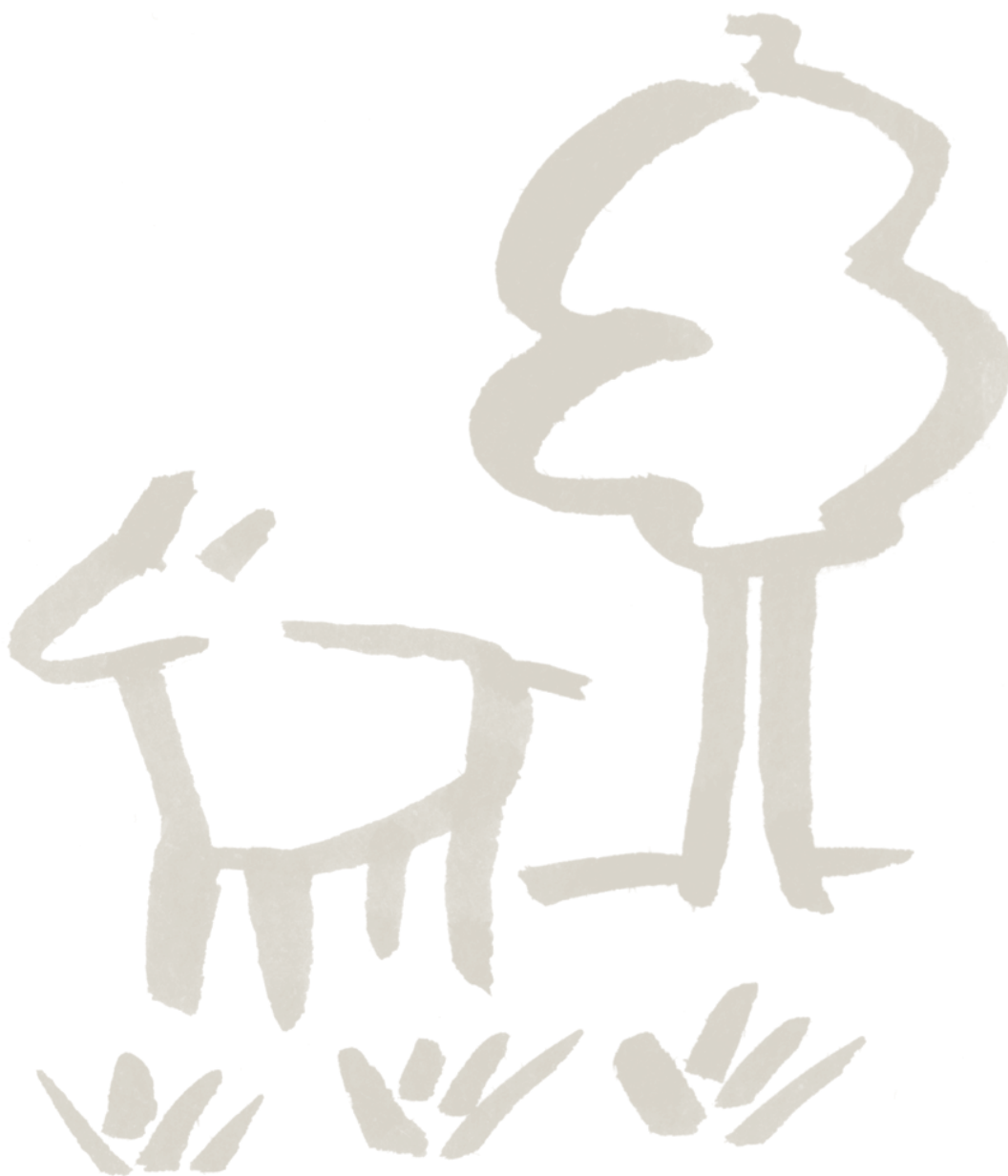


■ **Expected results**

- > Rehabilitation of small infrastructure to sustain a medium/long term process of agriculture revitalization
- > Increase availability of natural resources (land, water) through a more efficient use
- > Improve genetic resources through the introduction of new fruit tree varieties
- > Enhance the capacity of the public and private sector in proper management and sustainable use of inputs and natural resources
- > Creation of employment and income opportunities

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Rehabilitation of small infrastructure
- > Improved use of natural resources
- > Introduction and dissemination of proper management practices in order to decrease the production costs and raise the yields quality
- > Decreased on-going processes of erosion and degradation of the main natural resources due to agriculture practices introduced and/or disseminated



GTFS/PAL/022/ITA



GCP/INT/847/ITA

Thematic area:
Knowledge exchange and policy

Overall Objective:
Facilitating informed multi scale decision-making related to sustainable management of land and water resources

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$252 780

Participating countries:
Interregional

Duration:
3 years and 6 months
From 01 Apr 2003 to 30 Sep 2006

Capacity Building in Education for Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security



The Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action adopted in 1996 clearly stressed that sustainable development policies should consider education essential for empowering the poor and achieving food security. Recent research indicates that the empowerment of poor people, and policy and institutional reforms in the rural sector leading to participation of stakeholders, needs to be the starting point. In this respect, education has a crucial role since evidence shows that a farmer with four years of elementary education is, on average, nearly 10 percent more productive than a farmer with no education.

Project GCP/INT/847/ITA, is part of the FAO long lasting effort to assist national policy makers in addressing the basic needs of rural populations, and contributing to poverty eradication through improved reforming and planning education and training systems. The project, funded by the Government of Italy, is a key component of the global partnership initiative on Education for rural people (ERP) launched by FAO and United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organization (UNESCO) during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in September 2002, described in: <http://www.fao.org/sd/erp/>. The project became operational in April 2003.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Rural population of member countries benefiting for more inclusive and relevant education
- > Member countries' education policy makers, managers and planners as well as experts in donors' agencies

■ Objectives

The general objective is to contribute to poverty reduction, rural development, and improved food security benefiting, especially, vulnerable groups by ensuring increased access to and improved quality of basic education relevant to the needs of rural children, youth and adults.

The specific objectives are:

1. To develop a positive response from multilateral and bilateral agencies to the need to increase development resources and commitment to ERP
2. To strengthen the institutional capacity (Ministries of Education and Agriculture and other stakeholders) of Egypt for reforming ERP by increasing the capacity of a core group of policy makers and managers to plan a system that addresses rural population educational needs by participatory processes

■ Strategies

- > Promotion of education as essential element to grant ownership to the poorest and reach food security
- > Share best practices and lessons learned from the study of FAO/Institute of education and planning of UNESCO and identify key issues to be addressed in national strategies for ERP
- > Collaboration with the Institute of statistic of UNESCO and the production of a study on the teaching conditions in primary schools



- > Preparation of information and educational material
- > Promotion of new interdisciplinary approaches dealing with the education for rural people

■ **Expected results**

- > Improvement of training in the participation process at regional level (Latin-America and Asia) and at national level (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico and Perú), focusing the attention on the level of education for rural people
- > Improvement of food security
- > Organization of an international workshop to increase awareness on the need to use new interdisciplinary approaches on education for people living in rural areas
- > Preparation of information and education for rural people material
- > Production of national and international indicators useful to the design of policies

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Supporting the most vulnerable groups of the population
- > Improvement of the cooperation among stakeholders and rural people extension
- > Preparation and implementation of two international seminars in Latin-America and Asia with the participation of donors and representatives of the educational and agricultural ministries of the various regions, and of non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- > Organization of seminars that allowed the identification of adequate tools

GCP/INT/847/ITA



Thematic area:
Knowledge
exchange and
policy

Assistance to the NEPAD¹ Member Countries in the Review/Update of National Strategies for Food Security and Agricultural Development, and the Preparation of Medium-term Investment Programmes and Bankable Projects in Support to the CAADP² Implementation

Overall Objective:
Contribute to the implementation of the NEPAD-CAADP, as a means to improving food security and fostering agricultural growth in Africa

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$998 302

Participating countries:
Interregional

Duration:
2 years and
7 months
From 01 Jan 2004
to 31 Jul 2006



Agriculture dominates the economies of most African countries, providing jobs, incomes and exports. At present, it accounts for some 60 percent of Africa's employment and 20 percent of its export earnings, while more than 70 percent of the total population mainly depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. The sector continues to fall deep into a crisis that started almost four decades ago.

African countries recognize that the agriculture is the backbone of their economies.

A constantly growing agricultural sector is not only crucial for addressing hunger, poverty and inequality, but also fundamental for the overall economic growth. This implies that agriculture is not just about food, but it is also about employment, reduction of poverty and prosperity.

At the 22nd FAO Regional Conference for Africa (RCA) on 8 February 2002 in Cairo, in an effort to halt and reverse the decline of the agricultural sector in the continent situation, the Ministers of Agriculture unanimously adopted a resolution laying down key steps to be taken in relation to agriculture in the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). In a direct follow-up to this resolution, all ministers endorsed, at a special NEPAD session of the FAO RCA held in Rome on 9 June 2002, the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). This CAADP programme seeks to restore agricultural growth, rural development and food security in the African region. The recent Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa ratified by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government during its Second Ordinary Session, held in Maputo in July 2003, provided strong political support to the CAADP.

- **Beneficiaries**
- > National Governments
 - > Private sector operators

1. New Partnership for Africa's Development
2. Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme



■ **Objective**

The overall objective is to contribute to the implementation of the NEPAD–CAADP, as a means to improving food security and fostering agricultural growth in Africa.

The immediate objectives of the project is to provide financial resources and technical assistance in:

1. Review/update of national long-term food security strategies
2. Preparation of national medium-term investment programmes (NMTIP) in all NEPAD member countries
3. Formulation of bankable investment projects

■ **Strategies**

- > Updating of national strategies as a basis for planning in adequate management of resources to fight hunger. The National Food Security and Agricultural Development Strategies (NFSAD) – Horizon 2015 are meant for the whole rural world considering micro–macro linkages, the urban dimension of food insecurity and cross cutting issues such as diseases (HIV/AIDS, malaria, etc.), public sector reform, decentralization, trade and macro–economic reforms
- > Revitalization of the agriculture and animal, forestry, and fishery sectors through adequate policies
- > Implementation of CAADP and the plans of action for the agriculture development at national, regional and continental level
- > Joint action of the African Union Commission, NEPAD, FAO, and other partners in support of African countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for the implementation of CAADP

- > Consultation at national and regional level with civil society organization and other stakeholders
- > Preparation through joint efforts at national and regional level, of bankable projects in the framework of CAADP for the mobilization of resources for agricultural growth and rural development

■ **Expected results**

- > Agricultural growth, rural development and food security in the region
- > A national medium-term investment programme for each one of the NEPAD member countries
- > Project documents for at least five technical assistance projects to be considered for grant funding by the donors

■ **Ongoing results**

- > As of end 2005, NMTIPs have been completed in all NEPAD. In addition to date, around 200 bankable projects have been prepared with total investments of around US\$5–6 billion
- > Support to the NEPAD Secretariat in the organization of the national consultancies between January and May 2005. The last meeting took place in Accra, 5–6 May 2006. These meetings provided the opportunity to identify priorities for the various regions and early action, which can be promoted and implemented shortly
- > Approval of CAADP: the programme aims at re-establishing agricultural growth, rural development and food security in the region





Thematic area:
Knowledge exchange and policy

Overall Objective:
Addressing poverty and food security to achieve the Millennium development goals (MDGs)

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$1 800 000

Participating countries:
Interregional

Duration:
2 years
From 01 Nov 2004 to 30 Oct 2006

Support to Regional Economic Organizations (REOs) for the Implementation of their Regional Programmes for Food Security



Following the increased efforts of industrialized countries towards integration new impetus has been given to the debate on regional integration among developing regions. Approximately 20 Regional Economic Organizations have been established in the developing world so far. FAO has started the preparation of 12 regional programmes for food security (RPFS), out of which, CARIFORUM (Forum of the Caribbean ACP States) and the Pacific island countries (PIC) are funded by the extraordinary Italian Contribution to the FAO Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety. FAO's approach to regional food security is innovative and the limited implementation experience accrued so far calls for further improvement and additional support. This project therefore promotes the implementation of

RPFS, contributing to the development of policy and regulatory frameworks for food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Regional economic organizations
- > Producers
- > Traders
- > Entrepreneurs

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to address poverty and food security to achieve the Millennium development goals by linking regional and

national efforts to promote private agro-industries in providing good quality and safe food at prices affordable to the poor.

The specific objectives are:

1. Support the capacity building process to facilitate regional integration through market access and expansion
2. Assist member countries to identify agricultural investment opportunities

■ Strategies

- > Organizing regional workshops to discuss key questions related to regional integration and food security and to raise political awareness
- > Promoting synergy and coordination between projects and establishing partnerships between United Nations agencies and regional bodies in order to use resources to implement RPFS efficiently.
- > Establishing a Rapid-Response Unit to address technical support requirements from CARIFORUM, PIC and the Economic and monetary West African union (Union économique et monétaire ouest Africaine – UEMOA) on issues related to trade and food Security
- > Promoting countries' specializations within a regional context
- > Supporting the harmonization process of regulations and rules on phyto-sanitary standards and trade legislation with those prevailing in the international arena

■ Expected results

- > Establishment of consultative mechanisms to support the definition of investment priorities
- > Exchange of information and promotion of specialization among countries to ensure optimization of comparative advantages and economies of scale and to expand both intra- and extra-community trade flows



- > Assured capacity building assistance in areas such as market access
- > Advisory and consulting services to assist investment project formulation
- **Ongoing results**
- > Organization of a Work Plan supporting the negotiations mechanisms in the regional markets, the identification and implementation of the regional communication strategies in the health, phyto-sanitary and food security sectors, and the establishment of an agricultural information system
- > Collaboration with the 'Istituto di Servizi per il Mercato Agricolo Alimentare (ISMEA)' for a study on the feasibility of the regional trade exchange



GTFS/INT/928/ITA

Thematic area:
Knowledge exchange and policy

Overall Objective:
Facilitating informed multi scale decision-making related to sustainable management of land and water resources

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$2 373 709

Participating countries:
Interregional

Duration:
2 years and 6 months
From 01 May 2004 to 31 Oct 2006

Topic Centre for the Global Land Cover Network (GLCN) – a Blueprint for Land Cover and Land Cover Dynamic



Land cover assessment and monitoring of its dynamics are essential requirements for the sustainable management of natural resources and for environmental protection. They provide the foundation for environmental, food security and humanitarian programmes that are crucial in fulfilling the mandates of many UN, international and national institutions. Current monitoring programmes, however, have no access to reliable or comparable baseline land cover data. Therefore, the implementation of a global programme using a fully harmonized approach is essential to increase the reliability of land cover information for a large user community. Responding to this need, a Global Land Cover Network (GLCN), with a dedicated centralized Topic Centre, is being developed based on the land cover mapping technologies which have already been developed and operationally tested during the FAO Africover East Africa module project GCP/RAF/287/ITA, also funded by the Government of Italy.

Satellite remote sensing enables continuous land cover monitoring whilst geographical information system provides a capacity for predicting trends in land cover changes. What is now needed is to translate these advanced geo-information capacities, combined with the extensive experience obtained by FAO during the implementation of the Africover East Africa module into a global land cover network.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Staff located in the Ministries of Agriculture, Environmental Management, Survey Departments or other ministries responsible for thematic mapping in the beneficiary countries
- > Poorest and most vulnerable groups

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to facilitate informed multi scale decision-making related to sustainable management of land and water resources, strengthen food security and improve environmental protection.

The specific objectives are:

1. The harmonization of land cover mapping and monitoring projects based on the land cover classification system (LCCS), at regional and global level
2. The facilitation of information exchange at global, regional and national level; and
3. The development of baseline datasets and their dissemination in developing countries within regional modules and selected national prototypes. An important training component is also envisaged.

■ Strategies

- > Reinforcement of the national and regional capacity building on the use of land cover maps
- > Organization of multi-level training courses
- > Promotion of training courses on the job of local experts
- > Institution of a seminar about the use of GLCN and land cover maps
- > Increase awareness of potential users of different countries to introduce the use of national database through the presentation of the GLCN. During these workshops, held between June 2004 and March 2005, over 300 people from 75 countries have been trained in GLCN methodologies



Thematic area:
Knowledge
exchange and
policy

Overall Objective:
Strengthen the
capacities, reduce
the vulnerability
and increase the
self-reliance of
rural communities
and networks

Donor:
Government of
Italy

Contribution:
US\$299 774

**Participating
countries:**
Interregional

Duration:
18 months
From 15 Jun 2005
to 31 Jul 2006

Facility for Sustainable Development and Policy Implementation Assistance



In recent years, the focus of development cooperation has gradually shifted toward a greater balance between, on the one hand, the need to achieve economic growth rates compatible with the long-term objective of eradicating poverty, disease and malnutrition and, on the other hand, the need to do so in a 'sustainable' manner, i.e. by ensuring that the interests of future generations (in environmental, social and economic terms) are taken into account alongside those of present ones, which are more immediately perceived. This principle was reaffirmed at such international fora as the two most recent World food summits (Rome, 1996 and 2002), the Millennium summit (New York, 2000), the International summit on financing for development (Monterrey, 2001) and the World summit on sustainable development (Johannesburg, 2002).

Within this general framework, a specific dimension has been identified and recommended with respect to agriculture and rural development, which, in order to be sustainable, should be environmentally sound, technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable. The concept of 'sustainable agricultural and rural development' (SARD) has thus emerged, through such widely accepted international policy instruments as the Millennium goals and Agenda 21.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Rural communities and poorest groups that are involved in the projects selected for the pilot phase
- > Project managers, civil society organizations and their networks and others involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of agricultural and rural development projects selected for the pilot phase

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to build the capacities, reduce the vulnerability and increase the self-reliance of rural communities, organizations and networks, so as to improve their access to resources and to promote good practices for SARD.

The project's immediate objectives are:

1. To systematize existing tools and, if necessary, develop new tools aimed at increasing the environmental, economic and social sustainability of development projects. These tools include guidelines for project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and best-practice repertoires
2. To generate and disseminate lessons from projects concerning factors which tend to undermine sustainability and impact on target groups, identifying innovative approaches and good practices, and providing a framework for up-scaling and replication to ensure sustainable project outcomes
3. To facilitate and improve the capacity of selected project and project managers
4. To bring about significant improvements in the achievement of sustainable agriculture and rural development outcomes



■ **Strategies**

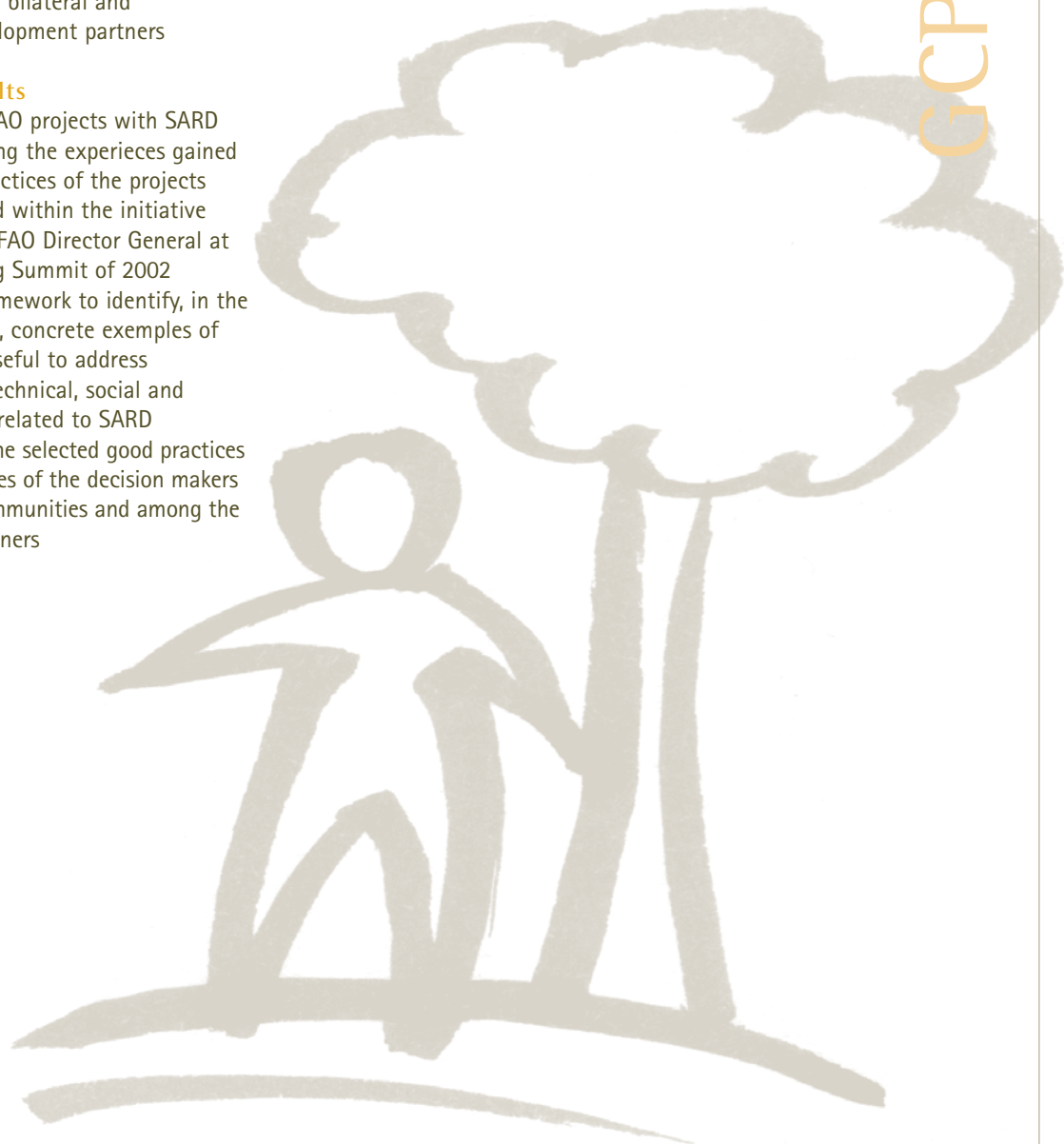
- > Study of existing documentation of a series of analytical tools
- > Identify and document best/good practices arising from projects visited and define standards of effectiveness and sustainability that are achievable under prevailing contexts and circumstances
- > Preparation of two newsletters to disseminate information on the project
- > Identification of 10 projects funded by the Government of Italy and plan to conduce field missions to most of the selected projects
- > Propose concrete measures aimed at enhancing cooperation, within the project implementation framework, between local authorities, civil society organizations, governments and bilateral and multilateral development partners

■ **Expected results**

- > Coincidence of FAO projects with SARD objectives applying the experiences gained and the good practices of the projects recently executed within the initiative launched by the FAO Director General at the Johannesburg Summit of 2002
- > Creation of a framework to identify, in the FAO programmes, concrete examples of good practices useful to address environmental, technical, social and economic issues related to SARD
- > Presentation of the selected good practices to the beneficiaries of the decision makers in the donors communities and among the development partners

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Preparation of a sustainability analysis model for development projects and of an adequate methodology design for the projects feasibility evaluation
- > Production of a draft report on the methodological instruments for the planning, management and evaluation of SARD activities
- > Realization of a repertory of good practices that promote SARD
- > Publishing of two newsletters containing information on the project and lessons learned



GCP/INT/938/ITA



GCP/INT/944/ITA

Thematic area:
Knowledge
exchange and
policy

Strengthening Partnerships on Education for Rural People



Overall Objective:
Strengthen the
Education for
Rural People
(ERP)
coordination unit
and support the
partnership
activities

Donor:
Government of
Italy

Contribution:
US\$200 000

**Participating
countries:**
Interregional

Duration:
3 years
From 01 Jan 2005
to 31 Dec 2007

During the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD, Johannesburg, 3 September 2002) .FAO and the United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organization (UNESCO) joined efforts in the establishment of a new global partnership flagship initiative on Education for rural people (ERP).

This initiative is meant to respond to rural people training needs. This is a fundamental step towards granting authority and power to rural people, and therefore essential to reduce poverty and hunger, promote sustainable development and is a key to achieve the goals set by the UN Millennium development goals (MDGs).

The partnership is open to members committed to promote improved access to quality basic Education for Rural People.

The Italian Government is an active member of the partnership and has supported its initiatives through project GCP/INT/847/ITA 'Capacity building in Education for Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security', operational since March 2003.

The project was able to further catalyse resources for the ERP partnership from other sources such as civil society, European Commission, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The project also contributed to raise awareness of policy makers holding key positions.

The present project will contribute to build upon, and expand the activities funded by the Government of Italy

through project GCP/INT/847/ITA funded by the Italian Government. The present proposal envisages reinforcing the ERP partnership coordination unit (CU) capacity in managing and expanding the global initiative towards two more regions – African and the Balkans.

■ Beneficiaries

People living in rural areas

■ Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the Education for Rural People global partnership initiative led by FAO

Immediate objectives are:

1. To strengthen the capacity-building activities of the ERP partnership by contributing to the organization of two regional capacity building workshops (Africa and the Balkans)
2. To reinforce the ERP Partnership Coordination Unit with technical expertise. This is needed to increase the technical assistance provided to the ERP Partnership members, to identify more sources of extra budgetary funding, to better manage the information generated by the partnership - through the ERP web site, the printed publications and by other means of communication - and to plan mechanisms and activities to strengthen the partnership impact

■ Strategies

- > Opening partnership to all members committed to the education for people living in rural areas
- > Adoption of some information and communication technologies (ICTs) such as virtual space, a learning video, a toolkit to implement the dissemination of teaching and learning materials for rural people
- > Organization of initiatives aimed at promoting the ERP issues, in Europe, involving at local level schools,



- decentralized national institutions and civil society organizations; at national level, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and cooperation agencies
- > Establishment of training courses at school in order to increase awareness on ERP issues in developing countries
- > Proposal of seminars for local administration and civil society organizations to implement networks of decentralized cooperation
- > Organization of research activities in developing countries aimed at identifying concrete possibilities of intervention to implement ERP and the synergies of all actors involved
- > Institution of a focal point in each country involved. He is a source of information on ERP at disposal of all local and institutional stakeholders

■ **Expected results**

- > Reducing poverty and hunger
- > Increasing awareness of politicians and managers to satisfy the real needs of rural people through a better educational planning system
- > Strengthening the capacity-building activities of the ERP partnership and the partnership impact
- > Assignment of authority and ownership to rural people to reduce poverty, hunger and to promote sustainable development and reach the United Nations MDGs
- > Addressing the education needs of people living in rural areas
- > Strengthening the ERP Partnership Coordination Unit for ERP and spread the initiative in Africa and Balkans

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Reinforcement of the ERP Partnership Coordination Unit
- > Organization of the ERP capacity building workshop in the Caribbean
- > One regional capacity building workshop for policy makers of Ministries of Education and Agriculture from the Balkans undertaken
- > Organization of a regional capacity building workshop for policy makers of Ministries of Education and Agriculture in Ethiopia undertaken
- > Increasing the number of partners up to 277
- > About 100 policy makers and managers from Africa and the Balkans, civil society and private sector representatives enabled to plan and implement effective ERP policies
- > One capacity building workshop on statistics on education in rural areas as a tool to monitor progress in ERP undertaken targeting key staff in selected and relevant UN agencies and in selected member countries

GCP/INT/944/ITA





Thematic area:
Knowledge exchange and policy

Overall Objective:
Facilitating informed multi scale decision-making related to sustainable management of land and water resources in the Nile Basin

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$5 000 000

Participating countries:
Interregional

Duration:
4 years
From 01 Dec 2004 to 31 May 2008

Information Products for Decisions on Water Policy and Water Resources Management in the Nile Basin



The River Nile is shared by 10 sovereign nations. The basin covers some 3.1 million km², which is approximately 10 percent of the African continent. An estimate of 160 million people live within the Nile basin, while the total population of the 10 Nile states exceeded 300 million in 2002. The present project GCP/INT/945/ITA is intended to strengthen the ability of the governments of the Nile Riparian States to take informed decisions on water resources policy and management matters regarding the common Nile resource. This project is directly linked to two previously executed Italy-FAO projects: GCP/INT/752/ITA 'Capacity Building for Nile Basin Water Resources Management', operational from November 1999 to October 2004 and GCP/RAF/286/ITA 'Operational water resources management and information system in the Nile Basin countries', operational from April 1996 to October 1999. The project will be carried out under the umbrella of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), of which the Government of Italy is a full partner. Recognizing the need to realize the development potential of the Nile, the Nile Basin States launched this historic initiative in 1999. NBI is guided by a shared vision 'to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilization of, and

benefits from, the common Nile Basin water resources' and aims to foster a basin-wide framework for cooperative action.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Human resources in the government sector responsible for water development and management
- > Rural population in areas affected by water development projects in the Nile Basin

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to strengthen the ability of the governments of the Nile Basin states to take informed decisions with regard to water resources policy and management in the Nile Basin

The specific objectives are:

1. Develop the capacity to integrate technical data related to water resources with socio-economic and environmental information of the Nile Basin region
2. Presentation of general thematic and trends dealing with the use and the potential development of water resources shared in the Nile Basin

■ Strategies

- > Development of information products that integrate technical water resources and water use data with other relevant data, including in particular demographic, socio-economic and environmental data
- > Strengthening of national capacity to deal with national and regional water policy and development issues
- > A participatory approach applied to project planning and management. The project will strive to extend the participatory approach to secure the necessary inputs from stakeholders and civil society



- > The role of women in agricultural production, nutrition, and food security and in actual water management is recognized
 - > Participatory approach during the organization and the management of the project
 - > Development of human resources as main instrument to ensure the sustainability of the project results
- **Expected results**
- > Strengthen ability of the Nile riparians to make informed decisions with regard to national and regional water resources policy and management in the Nile Basin
 - > Enhance the capacity to generate integrated data products combining water resources and other relevant data
 - > Produce of case studies
 - > Increase the agricultural productivity and the reduction of impact of risks for agriculture to stabilize and improve the subsistence in rural areas. In many cases the improvement of water access can transform a situation of stagnation into a socio-economic growth
- **Ongoing results**
- > Intervention on transboundary water resources
 - > Established links with civil society
 - > Active participation of representatives from the ten member countries and approval of a detailed operational work plan for the project
 - > Identification of geographical information systems (GIS) products useful for the description of the common management of Nile resource

GCP/INT/945/ITA



GCP/INT/969/ITA

Thematic area:
Knowledge exchange and policy

Overall Objective:
Raise the profile of water issues in the context of donor-funded interventions and national poverty reduction efforts

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$350 000

Participating countries:
Interregional

Duration:
2 years and 6 months
From 01 Jul 2005 to 31 Dec 2007

Development of a Methodology to Monitor Water Policies



Collection and analysis of reliable information on water availability and quality and on the prevailing socio-economic context is essential for effective water planning and management. Vital decisions at national and international levels cannot be made under conditions of uncertainty or risks due to the lack of appropriate information. Rational planning of development intervention and effective management of water resources based on facts and decision-aid tools will be the only way to avoid conflicts, properly allocate resources and solve complex environmental problems.

Despite past efforts, a comprehensive monitoring methodology has never been prepared and tested. The project aims specifically at developing a methodology that is well adapted to the needs of monitoring policies and projects in developing countries and can be implemented to evaluate advancements towards the Millennium development goals (MDGs) and the World summit on sustainable development (WSSD) targets in the field of water. This will require an important effort in capacity building and exchange of experience.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Governments
- > Donor community
- > Rural people

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to raise the profile of water issues in the context of donor-funded interventions and national poverty reduction efforts.

The specific objectives are:

1. Improvement of the present monitoring systems
2. Adoption of a suitable methodology to evaluate the impact of the policies and national programmes in the field of water in developing countries
3. Assessing progress towards achievement of the MDGs and WSSD targets
4. Better support to the initiatives taken and better formulation of the correspondent policies and strategies

■ Strategies

- > Development of a methodology suitable to the monitoring policies in developing countries, useful to be used to evaluate the progress in the achievement of the MDGs and the World Summit for Sustainable Development
- > Promotion of training activities
- > Collection and dissemination of experiences related to the management of water and the practices in use

■ Expected results

- > Realization of an efficient system which addresses the needs of many users (governments, donors, beneficiaries, etc.) and which is flexible, simple to update and ease
- > Rationalization of the information flow between the monitoring agencies and within the national and international bodies, allowing the beneficiaries countries to develop an information system in the field of water
- > Improvement of the present monitoring systems, their fine tuning and broadening, to promote the adoption of a



- methodology suitable for the evaluation of the policies and national programmes impact in the field of water in the developing countries
- > Formulation of guidelines for including regional and cross-cutting initiatives

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Collection and dissemination of experiences related to the management of water
- > Improve the skills and capacity of rural communities in their undertaking and management of commercial crop production
- > Reduced food losses, income generation, increased access to food, and above all reduced dependency on middle men/women
- > Development of training programmes with a high level of participation from national extension services as well as private sector entrepreneurs

GCP/INT/969/ITA





Thematic area:
Knowledge exchange and policy

Overall Objective:
Strengthen participation of civil society in decision-making processes related to food security and food sovereignty policies

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$407 660

Participating countries:
Interregional

Duration:
10 months
From 01 Oct 2005 to 31 Jul 2006

Strengthening Civil Society Involvement in Agricultural and Food Security Policies and Programmes: Achieving Food Security and Food Sovereignty



The World Food Summit Plan of Action underlined that the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the civil society (CSO) are indispensable to implement the commitments underwritten by Governments, and to reach the goal of halving the number of undernourished people in the world by 2015.

The work carried out by thousands of NGOs and social organizations over the last decade has helped not only to significantly strengthen communities of food producers – farmers, fisher folk, herders, Indigenous Peoples – but also to reinstate food issues in a central position in debates on development policies.

In recognition of the crucial role that civil society can play in decision-making on agricultural and food security policies and the need to enhance its indispensable involvement, the Italian Government has already been a key player in supporting and financing civil society participation and debate on food and agricultural issues.

This process contributed to a strengthened civil society preparation for and participation in the World Food Summit: five years later (WFS:fyf). The NGO/CSO Forum for Food Sovereignty, held in parallel to the Summit, with the support of the Italian Government, resulted in the creation of a formally-recognized global civil society mechanism for debate on issues of food sovereignty and food security:

the International NGO/CSO Planning Committee (IPC) for Food Sovereignty. The IPC acts as a network interfacing with FAO and the other Rome-based food and agricultural international institutions

The IPC promotes and supports the direct and systematic participation and involvement of CSO and social movements in follow-up activities to the WFS:fyf and the parallel NGO/CSO Forum, and is the chief organizer of civil society consultations and activities in conjunction with the FAO Regional Conferences.

The present project, supports the working groups of the International NGO/CSO IPC on topics relevant to agriculture, hunger and food security.

■ Beneficiaries

- > Civil society working group members and their partners in the Governments
- > Government delegations which
- > Smallholder farmers, fisherfolks, women, youth

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to strengthen the participation, mobilisation and capacity of civil society organisations, social movements and Indigenous Peoples' organizations.

The specific objectives are:

1. Promotion of an agriculture and rural development paradigm for the realization of food sovereignty and the eradication of hunger and poverty
2. Ensure the effective involvement of civil society in follow-up activities to the WFS:fyf and in project activities
3. Strengthen the IPC network to function as an effective, reliable and well informed voice of civil society on food sovereignty issues



■ **Strategies**

- > Produce and disseminate information materials on the right to food, impact of the agrarian reform, and the rural development policies
- > Build public awareness through local media (i.e. radio and newspapers)
- > Promote the participation of working group representatives to FAO intergovernmental meetings to discuss the Voluntary Guidelines country implementation Process
- > Coordinate the efforts and exchange of information at inter-regional level
- > Monitor developments in food, agriculture and search agencies
- > Develop the coordination of meetings and interactions with the civil society

■ **Expected results**

- > Production of leaflets and information addressing different audiences and translated into local languages
- > Publication of paper on civil society perspectives on agricultural biotechnology and its impacts on agriculture and on food sovereignty, the rural poor and the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
- > Identification and documentation on traditional agricultural models as the base for the elaboration of a programme proposal in the Latin American region
- > Production of information and awareness raising materials on Indigenous Peoples' experiences and practices

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Identifying the constraints hindering the development of production
- > Increase productivity and production stability

GTFS/INT/974/ITA





Thematic area:
Knowledge exchange and policy

Overall Objective:
Support the GTOS Secretariat to ensure a better information on the environmental state

Donor:
Government of Italy

Contribution:
US\$350 000

Participating countries:
Inter-Regional

Duration:
12 months
From 01 Aug 2005 to 31 Jul 2006

Support to the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) - GTOS Secretariat – a Regular Programme Support Mechanism for Improved Information on the State of the Environment



At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the international community adopted Agenda 21, an unprecedented global plan of action for sustainable development. To achieve the goals of the summit and other international conventions, there is a need for specific, reliable international data on global and regional environmental change. In 1996 four United Nations bodies (FAO, the United Nations environment programme – UNEP, the United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organization – UNESCO and the World meteorological organization – WMO) and the International council for science (ICSU) created the Global terrestrial observing system (GTOS) to confront this challenge. GTOS is the third and youngest of the Global Observing Systems (GOS) and has its Secretariat based in FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy. GTOS is a programme for observations, modeling, and analysis of terrestrial ecosystems to support sustainable development. It facilitates the access to information on terrestrial ecosystems so that researchers and policy-makers can detect and manage global and regional environmental change. In the first eight years since the conception of GTOS,

its Secretariat, hosted by FAO headquarters, has played an essential role in the observing systems achievements toward its mission and long-term goals. With the increase in programme activities and the intensification of efforts of the technical Panels, the GTOS Secretariat has found it increasingly difficult to fulfill all its duties and provide adequate support. The following project will allow the GTOS Secretariat to respond to the increasing needs of national and international users.

■ Beneficiaries

- > GTOS data/information users
- > Reserchers
- > Most vulnerable groups

■ Objectives

The overall objective is to support the GTOS Secretariat to ensure a better information on the environmental state

The specific objectives are:

1. Provide additional support to GTOS panels and thematic activities and to improve collaboration between national, regional and international initiatives to identify data gaps and facilitate the development of regional and global products
2. Develop the coastal module into an active GTOS Panel
3. Assist in the development of the Global Land Cover Maps
4. Provide the United Nations of Biodiversity, Climate and Desertification with the methods, tools, data and information to monitor changes and predict future developments at the local, national, regional and global scales. In particular, facilitate the harmonized collection,



analysis and exchange of relevant information related to loss of biodiversity, land degradation, and climate change

■ **Strategies**

- > Develop auto-evaluation techniques under the guidance of Environment and Natural Resources Service (SDRN) of FAO
- > A panel of land and coastal experts will be formed to insure the accurate formation and subsequent implementation of GTOS coastal activities
- > New sites, networks, variables, socio-economic data, maps, modules, data matrix, will be added to the database to support national and international activities
- > Promotion of techniques in order to facilitate an homogeneous collection of data, the analysis and sharing of information related to the loss of biodiversity, the soil degradation and the climate changes

■ **Expected results**

- > Operational programmes and products in GTOS key issues (ecological measurements, climate change, carbon fluxes, biodiversity, coastal issues, mountains, land cover, etc.)
- > Increased sharing of information on terrestrial observations and sustainable development issues
- > Increased cooperation and development of joint activities by GTOS members and national and regional institutions
- > Improved durable institutional mechanisms established in many countries to better deal with comprehensive national level monitoring and mapping
- > Improvement of the access of terrestrial ecosystems information in order to enable researchers and to recognize climate exchanges at regional and global level and the intervention planning

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Provide information to be used in understanding issues related to food instability and vulnerability
- > Improvement of food security of the least privileged populations
- > Provide a scientific baseline for addressing some of the primary sources of food insecurity, such as land degradation, desertification, biodiversity-loss and climate change
- > Contribution to soil and water conservation
- > Strengthen the role of the Secretariat in developing and fostering partnerships in the promotion of cooperation

GCP/INT/981/ITA





■ **Expected results**

- > To build with the support of the 'Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare' (IAO) in Florence a global land cover network among governmental and inter-governmental agencies, academic institutions, the private sector and other interested stakeholders
- > Improve data access and information exchange on the observation of the Earth
- > Develop new methodologies to map and describe land cover/vegetation dynamics

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Assist countries willing to translate/migrate their national land cover data sets into LCCS
- > Assist regional centers in harmonizing land cover data sets at a regional and global scale
- > Promote the use of LCCS in international initiatives

- > Assist in developing mapping programmes in individual countries (including India, Morocco, Senegal, Ethiopia, Namibia and Uruguay) and collaborate and assist in regional initiatives
- > Support and promote the development of specific applications of land cover data for sustainable land resources management and development (e.g. food security, sustainable agricultural and rural development, environmental and biodiversity conservation, carbon stocks, poverty mapping, land use planning, risk assessment, catastrophe prevention and mitigation)
- > Creation of two websites providing more detailed information on the different components of the GLCN programme. The website includes also current and future mapping activities and expected results, data, products, applications and useful resources for users

GCP/INT/934/ITA





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The report is divided into two parts: the first consists of an introduction which contains updated background information on the origins and scope of the FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme, a description of the Programme's development and management and a brief summary of the various initiatives by thematic area.

The second part includes a collection of project profiles. Each profile provides a brief description of the initiative and includes information on its location and its financial commitment, together with a record of the project's objectives, activities and expected outputs. Only projects active in 2006 are included.

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