

The FAO/Government of Italy Cooperative Programme

Review of
**FAO/Italy
Agricultural
Development
Projects**

2006



FAO WISHES TO THANK

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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 (GDGP)
- > 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.



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



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

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 (GDGP)

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.

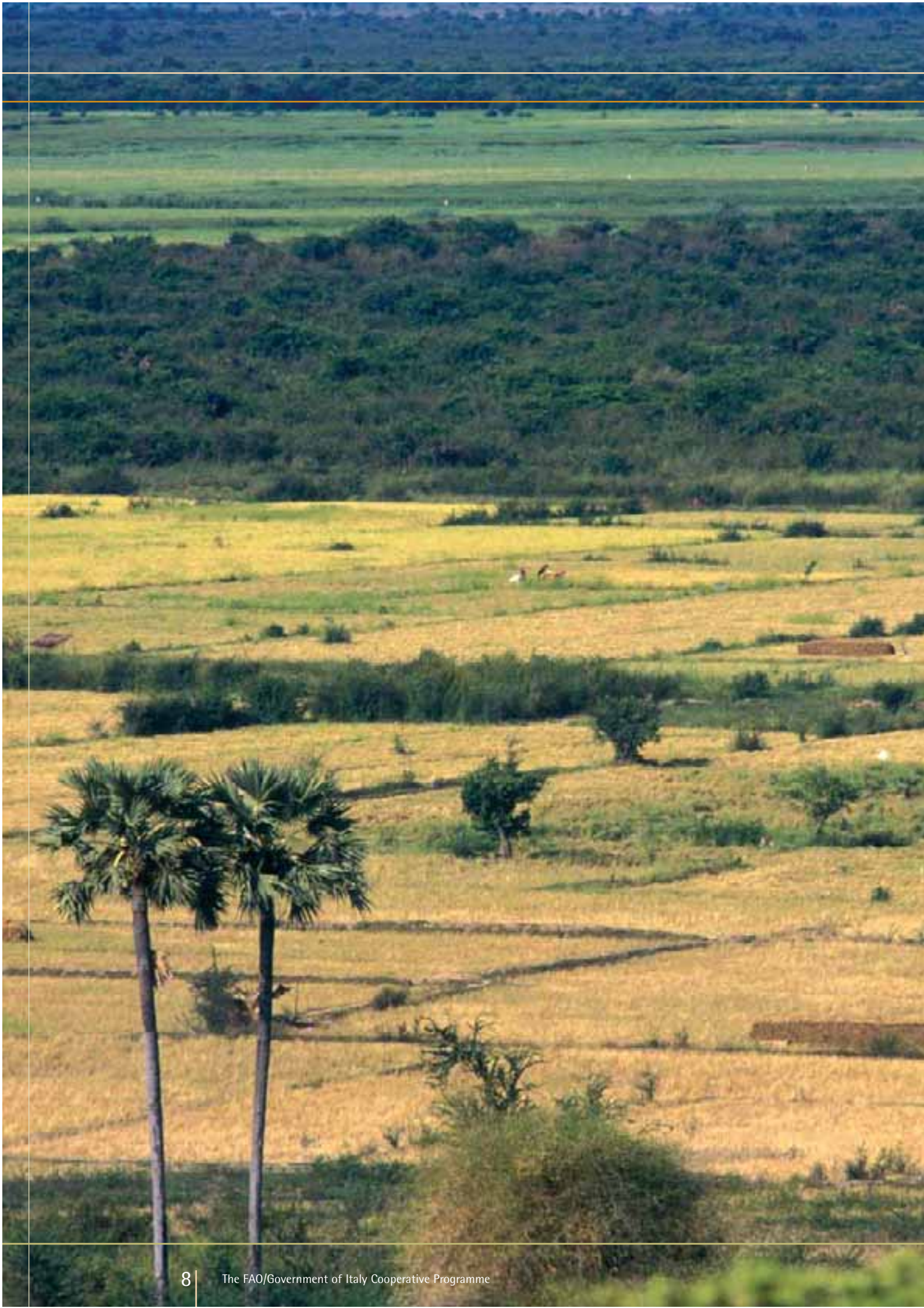


Italian APOs assigned to field projects to enhance effectiveness of FAO field programme



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



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



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



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.

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.

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

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 Zaghouan, 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
- GCP/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



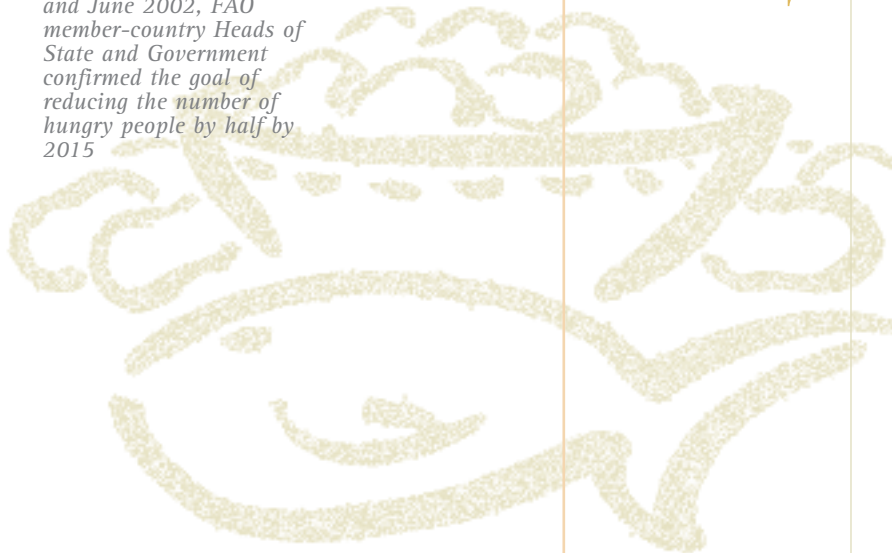
3 Food security

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

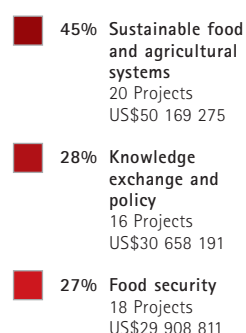
- GCSP/ANG/005/ITA** Rehabilitation of Food Security in the Province of Bengo, Angola. A Joint FAO-IFAD-WFP Initiative
- GDCP/BRA/002/ITA** Micro-garden Technologies for Improved Food Security in Selected Districts of the City of Teresina in the State of Piaui, Brazil
- GTFS/DOM/010/ITA** Promotion of 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



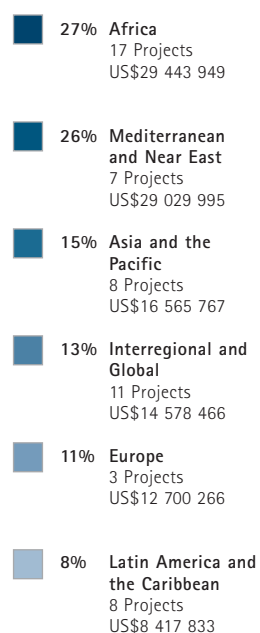
Distribution data of FAO/Government of Italy Development Projects



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%