



GCSP/CMB/009/ITA

# Integrated Irrigation Development Project in Battambang Province in Support of SPFS<sup>1</sup> 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

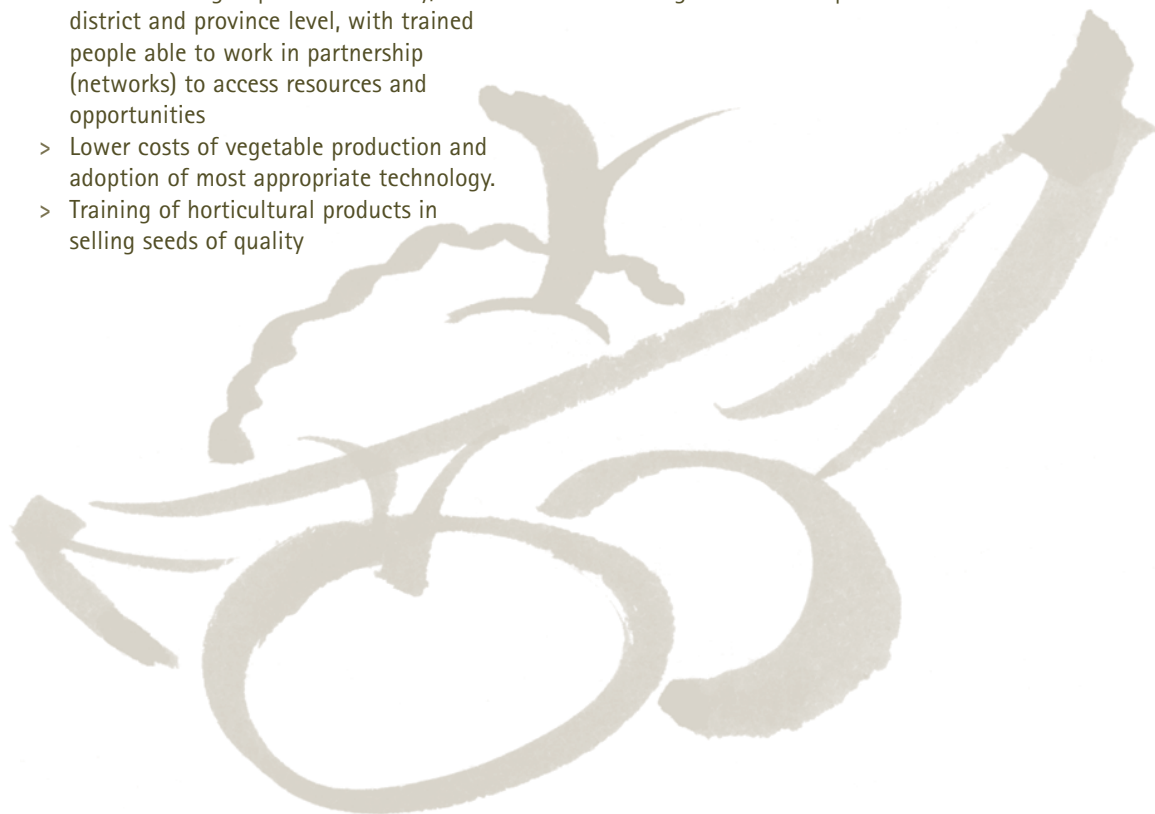
**Contribution:**  
US\$749 981

**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 countries<sup>1</sup> 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