



◀ In October 2006, FAO established a Crisis Management Centre (CMC) to fight Avian Influenza outbreaks and other major animal health or food health-related emergencies. Set up in collaboration with the Paris-based World Organisation for Animal Health and located at FAO's Rome headquarters, the Centre brings rapid-response capacity to transboundary animal and plant diseases, and can also react quickly to emergencies involving plant pests or food safety. Supported by advanced communications technology, the Centre operates around the clock, seven days a week with a staff of up to 15 specialists and veterinarians. Disease information is monitored and updated from around the globe continuously. When a suspected outbreak is reported, CMC can dispatch its experts to any hot-spot in the world in under 48 hours.

## A wide range of services

FAO's broad technical expertise and experience allow it to provide a whole range of services to ensure that projects and programmes respond effectively to issues that impact on the lives of rural people.

### **Assisting governments to mobilize resources for national priorities in the food and agriculture sector**

FAO's field offices are increasingly involved in resource mobilization and often engage with donors directly at the country level. The Organization helps countries secure financing for priority areas in agricultural and rural development that may not be necessarily implemented by FAO.

### **Preparing Investment Programmes**

FAO's Investment Centre promotes greater investment in agriculture and rural development by assisting developing countries to identify and plan effective and sustainable agricultural policies, programmes and projects and monitoring their implementation. It does this with funding from multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, IFAD, regional development banks and international funds as well as FAO resources.

### **Policy assistance**

FAO provides analysis of global changes, their implication at the national and regional level and helps governments formulate and review their national policies and strategies in agriculture and rural development. Examples include supporting developing countries in understanding the implications of positions in trade negotiations and in implementing World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements, and providing advice with prioritizing agriculture and rural development within existing development frameworks such as the Poverty Reduction Strategies.

## Capacity building

Capacity building in countries is a feature of nearly all FAO interventions, both through national and regional initiatives. The thematic focus of capacity building activities can vary, from strengthening capacity in complying with food safety standards to training in pesticide management to establishing food information and early warning systems.

## Responding to emergencies and ensuring the link to rehabilitation

From prevention, monitoring and early warning to rapid response and building back better, FAO's assistance in emergencies covers a whole range of services. FAO provides early warning of adverse conditions in the food and agricultural sectors and of impending food emergencies. It also monitors and warns of transboundary epidemics in livestock diseases and plant pests and ensures a global response. It participates in interagency assessment missions, coordinates the different players involved in complex emergencies and helps create the conditions for a quick and lasting recovery.

## Project implementation

FAO has the expertise and experience needed to provide the technical and administrative support required to implement projects successfully. National institutions and NGOs are often closely involved in project implementation, in development as well as emergency projects.

Depending on the project agreement signed between the recipient country, FAO and the donor, implementation services can vary. They range from recruitment and supervision of experts to procurement of goods and services to supply of up-to-date information on project progress and regular financial and budgetary reports. FAO technical officers in headquarters and in regional and subregional offices provide technical support services to projects and help turn FAO's knowledge into practical action on the ground. These services, combined with capacity development activities (fellowships, training of trainers, workshops, etc.), project monitoring through a network coordinated by FAO's Field Programme Monitoring and Coordination Service, and financial accountability ensure that the project inputs, outputs and outcomes are of the highest technical standards.



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▲ Integrated pest management training at a farmer field school: collecting pest specimens in the field. The specimens are then taken to the school and drawn by farmer groups. As illiteracy is high in Laos, drawing from life specimens enhances farmers' ability to identify and memorize insects. Most schools are attended by about 25 participants, both male and female, from the same village and groups are formed to facilitate field study. This village was chosen because farmers were keen to learn about crop management and production of new high-yielding rice varieties.

## Capacity building

Farmer Field Schools (FFS), initially developed by FAO in Southeast Asia, are an alternative way of empowering small-scale farmers, to improve their production systems, food security and livelihoods. The FFS approach capitalizes on farmer knowledge and organization and applies "learning by doing" methods. Many field schools start with a broad curriculum and, later on, focus on more specialized subjects e.g. improved

dairy production and marketing, fruit production and transformation, farm business management, enterprise development and marketing. "Graduated" FFS groups often continue working together, marketing their produce in groups. This localized approach to capacity building and institution building is now being promoted by many governments and NGOs in rural areas of developing countries throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America.