



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



People's Republic of China

**FAO Country Programming Framework**

**2016-2020**

# Introduction

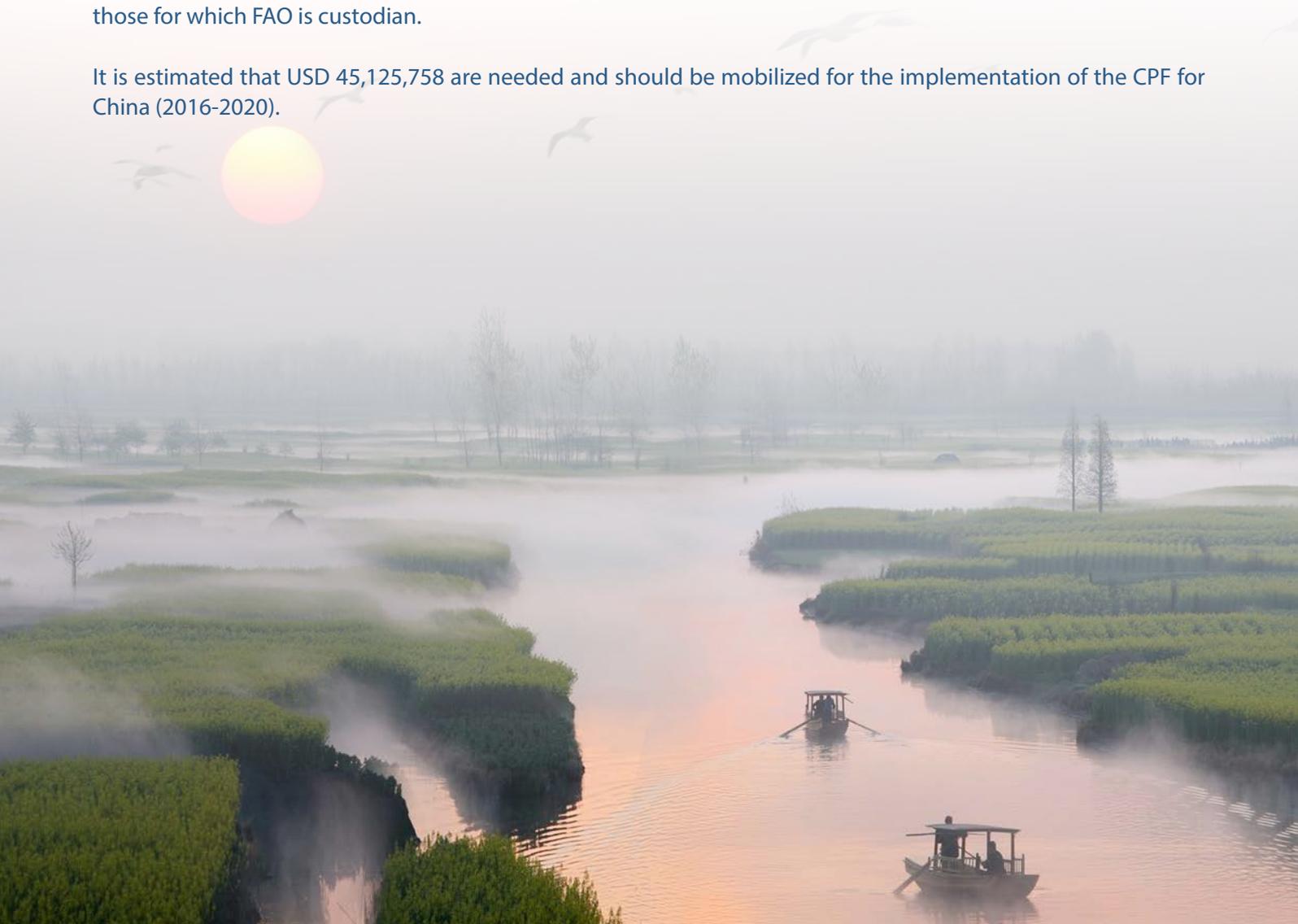
This Country Programming Framework (CPF) sets out four priority areas to guide FAO partnership and support with the Government of China – bringing together innovative international best practices and global standards with national and regional expertise during years from 2016 to 2020.

The CPF was prepared following consultation and agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture of China, line ministries, academic research institutes, private sector, civil society and other development partners in the country.

FAO, in providing support as part of the CPF, will apply key cross-cutting programming principles and put particular emphasis on gender equality, strengthening partnerships, fostering innovation and Communication to bring FAO's interventions at a higher level of impact and visibility. These principles will provide the basis for the development of a renewed and stronger partnership with the government of China and lay the foundation for a relevant, effective and impactful country programme.

Towards the realization of Sustainable Development Goals. The CPF will contribute to improve the evidence base for the implementation and monitoring of agriculture related SGDs in the country. Policy advocacy, coordination and technical assistance will be provided to support China's National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In line with FAO's corporate action plan, statistical support, including but not limited to methodology development, data collection, capacity development, and information dissemination will also be provided to contribute to the monitoring of SGD indicators, particularly those for which FAO is custodian.

It is estimated that USD 45,125,758 are needed and should be mobilized for the implementation of the CPF for China (2016-2020).





## FAO in China

For the period 2016 to 2020, FAO and China have entered into a new era of collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a comprehensive strategic cooperation partnership that will foster innovation, synergies and complementarities in the realization of national development goals in the context of the "New Normal", and in China's pursuit of increased regional and global cooperation with developing countries to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on poverty and hunger eradication.

The establishment of the strategic partnership responds to a changing trend from one-way development assistance from FAO to China, to a two-way collaboration highlighting and sharing China's experience in agriculture development and food security. FAO will still be active in providing cutting-edge policy advice, and technical assistance on food security and safety, sustainable agricultural development, management of natural resources, surveillance and control of transboundary animal and plant diseases. At the same time, China is increasingly becoming a key partner of FAO in promoting South-South Cooperation (SSC) to help improve the capacity for sustainable agriculture development in other developing countries.

With sustained and rapid growth for over three decades, China has grown to be the second largest economy in the world, stepping into the upper-middle-income country group with a Gross National Income per capita of US\$7,880 by the end of 2015. The economic growth has translated into remarkable progress in lifting 600 million people out of poverty and reducing the number of undernourished by 53.7%, providing a wealth of knowledge, products, and services that could be shared with the rest of the developing world.

Nonetheless, in some areas China remains a

developing country. Challenged by a decrease in the demographic dividend, accumulated risks of the middle-income trap, and international political and economic dynamics, economic development in China entered into a "New Normal" which features a lower economic growth rate, a changing/optimizing economic structure, and a transition from input/investment-driven to innovation-driven development. In agriculture sector, the specific challenges are manifested by such dilemmas between increasing demand for food and limiting natural resources; between overall supply-demand balance and structural shortages and increasing food safety concerns, between rising agricultural production costs and decreasing comparative efficiency, between structural labor shortages and smallholder households operation, as well as challenges from increasing impacts of climate change. In addressing these challenges, China imperatively needs and welcome global best practices, innovative approaches and more regional and international engagements, which fall exactly into FAO's comparative advantages.

Positioning FAO's work in the country for the years from 2016 to 2020, the CPF aims to bring added value in addressing domestic agriculture development bottlenecks, supporting its supply-side reform, whilst at the same time, facilitating China's engagement in the regional and global agriculture development agenda, especially in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative. The current CPF captures this dual goal and as such will display unique features reflecting the growing contribution of China on the international scene in the area of agriculture development, climate change, poverty reduction and food security. More particularly, it will support the establishment of an "agricultural innovation and partnership center" that goes beyond FAO's intervention at country level and will foster knowledge and innovation exchanges across the region and beyond.

# Our Focus

Linking national agriculture development plans with FAO comparative advantages, the Country Programming Framework for China (2016-2020) sets out four priority areas for joint collaboration, including:

- 1) **Fostering sustainable and climate resilient agricultural development;**
- 2) **Reducing rural poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition;**
- 3) **Promoting a one-health approach for sustainable agriculture trade, and improved Public Health;**
- 4) **Facilitating China's regional and international agricultural cooperation.**

## Fostering sustainable and climate resilient agricultural development

Rapid economic development, accelerated urbanization process and steady population growth generate a rising and inelastic demand for food in China in the long run. On top of the already limited per-capita endowment of natural resources, China is facing growing challenges in the forms of over-exploitation of agricultural resources, excessive use of agricultural inputs, and deterioration of ecological environment. Climate change scenarios multiply the negative impacts and adverse effects on sustainable and resilient agriculture development in the country.

The National 13th Five-year Development Plan puts “modernization” as the direction for agriculture development in the country for the period of 2016-2020, emphasizing the main requirements on high efficiency, product safety, energy conservation and environment friendliness. Maintaining sustainable agriculture development for food and nutrition security not only builds on the national agriculture development agenda, but also contributes significantly to the achievement of food and agriculture security in line with the SDGs. The entry points of FAO’s support for this national development priority focuses on three thematic areas including innovative approaches for agriculture development, revitalization of ecosystem and biodiversity, as well resilience to climate change risks. Participation of and benefits for smallholder farmers, vulnerable and poverty-stricken groups in particular, shall be a top consideration.

Sustainable intensification of agriculture production will contribute to translate the national development priority of “building an eco-civilization” into agriculture sector. FAO’s support in this regard aims at introducing innovative ideas and interventions that could bring greater added value to the already

on-going national initiatives. Novel practices of global agricultural development including but not limited to the agro-ecological approach, climate-smart agriculture, nutrition sensitive agriculture, sustainable food value chains, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHs), and ICT and E-agriculture , will be mainstreamed by means of policy advice and development support, awareness-raising, capacity building, institutional networking and, where useful, pilot initiatives in the field.

FAO will assist China’s agriculture sector in fulfilling its commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change through Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) towards improving resilience to climate change in both terms of adaptation and mitigation with a focus on the poorest. Climate-resilient agriculture will be piloted in agricultural provinces with higher risks for climate change threats. FAO will target water, lake, forest, and wetland ecosystems for interventions in the domains of biodiversity conservation, ecosystem threat mitigation, ecosystem monitoring and evaluation, protected area management, alternative/ sustainable livelihoods, environmental education and capacity building. Forest sector will also be a priority area for interventions, with Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) to be piloted in selected provinces for increasing carbon storage and creating carbon credit for trade. In addition to on-going GEF initiatives, FAO shall support China in seeking Green Climate Fund (GCF) funding in addressing the climate change impacts in the technical areas of livestock, grassland management, forestry and beyond. In contributing to the 2030 agenda, FAO will support the country in monitoring and reporting of the implementation process and achievement of the agriculture related SDGs.

**Outcome 1: China aims to ensure early positive results in sustainable agriculture development by 2020 and notable progress in sustainable agriculture development by 2030.**

**Output 1.1:** Introduction and adoption of innovative approaches and best practices in global agriculture development, such as agro-ecology, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, ICT, facilitated and strengthened to contribute to sustainable agricultural development in China;

**Output 1.2:** Biodiversity conservation and development interventions supported to revitalize key forest, water and wetland agro-ecosystems in the country; **Output 1.3** Agriculture climate adaptation and mitigation measures implemented to improve agriculture resilience to climate change.



The 2017 China Poverty Reduction International Forum, with the theme of “Developing and Sharing Governance Solutions to Reduce Poverty”, held on 26 May, 2017 in Beijing, was co-hosted by FAO, the China Internet Information Center (CIIC), International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC), World Bank, and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

## Reducing rural poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition

Despite of the remarkable achievement in reducing absolute poverty, China is still home to 55.75 million poor people in rural areas by the end of 2015 for targeted poverty reduction and development interventions. Rural poverty, in the meantime, is closely intertwined with malnutrition in all its forms from under nutrition, to micronutrient deficiencies and over nutrition. By the end of 2015, China was still home to 133.8 million of undernourished. The adult obesity rate was registered at 11.1% and the deficiency of Calcium, Iron and Vitamin A and D persisted.

FAO shall harness its technical excellence in the areas of rural people’s economic empowerment, social protection and decent rural employment to assist China in implementing the Targeted Poverty Reduction Scheme as put forward by the government.

FAO will support China to address specific challenges resulting from the complex interactions between rural population dynamics (aging, feminization of agriculture, youth skills-building, etc) and sustainable development, through analysis, policy advice, and the demonstration of innovative solutions. Special attention will be given to inclusive and equitable development of the most vulnerable groups.

**Outcome 2: Lifting all Chinese rural poor people out of poverty and eliminate malnutrition by 2020**

**Output 2.1** Decision-making, partnership-building and rural livelihoods improved and enhanced through provision of policy advice, engagement of private-sector, support to rural organizations, and empowerment of poor and vulnerable smallholders to support inclusive pro-poor development in rural and peri-urban areas of china.

**Output 2.2** Awareness, capacities and policy advocacy improved in addressing poverty

## Promoting one-health approach for sustainable agricultural and improved public health

Quality and safety of food products, the public health dimensions of animal diseases and trade issues remain a huge concern in China. While some progress is being made, there are still many problems to be solved in this regard. Over-application of fertilizers and pesticides, and misuse or overuse of veterinary drugs and feed additives have brought about numerous quality and safety hazards (although these inputs do lead to increased production when used judiciously). In addition to local outburst of pests and diseases, the movement of plant/animal and plant/animal products through both domestic and international trade can lead to the spread of pests and diseases that directly impact agricultural production, pose risks to the environment and can hinder trade. In recent years, pollution arising from industrial waste water and solid and municipal waste has risen dramatically and contaminated environment.

FAO promotes the “One Health” approach for sustainable agriculture and improved public health, aiming to manage and reduce the impact of animal and plant diseases and other public health threats, especially Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), thus improving food safety, enhancing trade flows, and improving human health and nutrition. Interventions will take forms of multi-disciplinary action-oriented research, policy dialogue and regulation enforcement,

governance mechanism, capacity strengthening, technical exchange, as well as development of community level strategies and action plans, which will assist china in strengthening national food control regulatory capacities and global trade facilitation, supporting science-based food safety governance and decisions, improving capacities in risk assessment, communication and management and enhancing food safety management along food chains.

Partnership with both national counterparts and international partners including OIE, WHO, UNEP, IAEA, IPPC and others will be strengthened.

---

**Outcome 3: One-health approach for sustainable agricultural trade promoted and public health improved.**

**Output 3.1:** Intelligence, surveillance, preparedness and emergency response efforts supported through interventions such as operational research, policy dialogue, capacity development activities to enhance stronger food safety and health systems in China;

**Output 3.2:** Cross-border one-health collaboration supported through networking, dialogues and pilot of innovative practices for health and well-being and improved trade.

**Output 3.3:** Supporting and ensuring quality SDG monitoring and reporting on trade, health and related indicators under FAO stewardship.



The Innovation Lab (AgLab CX) Session on Reducing Food Loss and Waste in China was held in May 2017 in Beijing, co-organized by FAO and Tsinghua University, with funding support from Robam and Bottledream.

## Facilitating China's regional and international agriculture cooperation

China sets an example in the area of agricultural development and has accumulated a wealth of experience and techniques, including knowledge, good practices, policies, technology and resources, to share with the rest of the developing world.

Under the frameworks of 2030 Agenda, FAO's Strategic Objectives, South-South Cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative, FAO commits to facilitating dialogues, networking and mutual exchange of poverty reduction and food and nutrition security solutions between China and other developing countries in the world, to support achievement of the food and agriculture related targets for the SDGs.

FAO shall also support to develop pilot projects and innovative approaches in agriculture development and poverty reduction in close collaboration with government counterparts in China and interested nations in the region and across the globe. In this framework, FAO China will explore the possibility of establishing a Center for Agriculture Partnership and Innovation which aims to facilitate agricultural collaborations among the Belt and Road countries in addition to improve national agriculture production

and capacities. Innovation labs on rural development and poverty reduction will also be established to bring together top expertise from Universities, think tanks, FAO and the government to catalyze, develop and disseminate innovations in the agricultural sector at all levels from local to global.

---

**Outcome 4: China will fulfill its international obligations by providing more public goods for global development and promoting a greater role of the Assistance Fund in helping other developing countries implement the 2030 agenda .**

**Output 4.1** Novel and innovative institutional interventions facilitated to exchange knowledge, experiences and solutions on agricultural sustainable development between China and other developing countries in the region and around the globe.

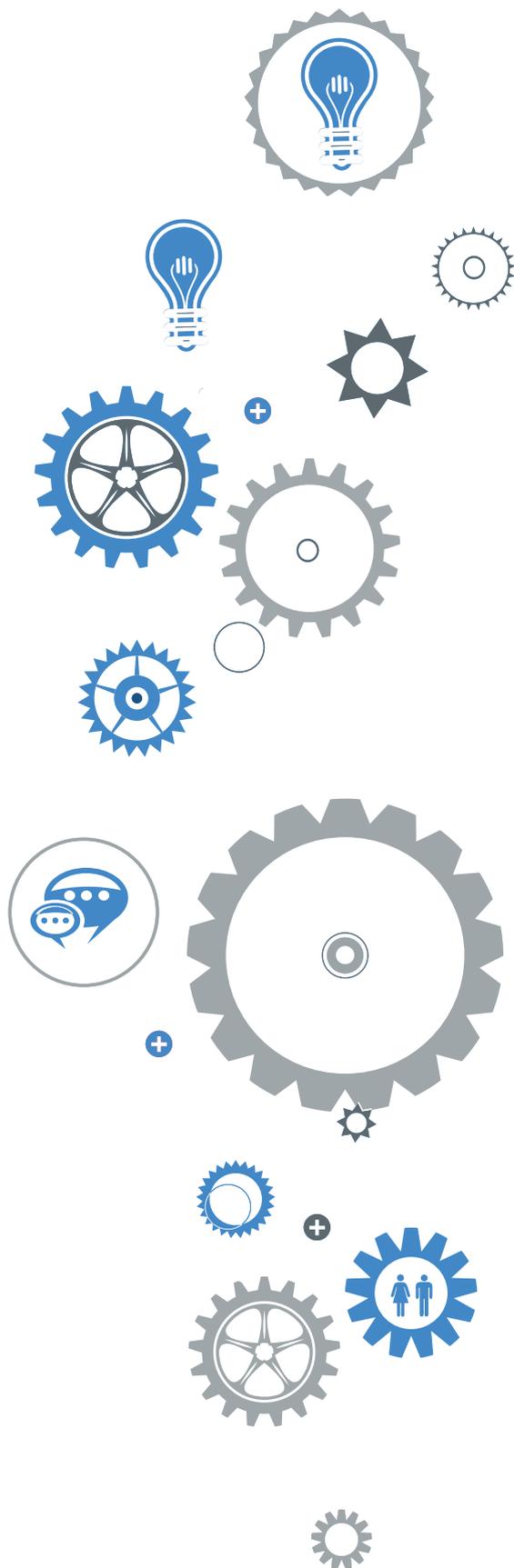
**Output 4.2** China's engagement and participation in exchange and cooperation on poverty reduction, TAD control and food and nutrition security with other developing countries strengthened and supported through South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

**Output 4.3** A new collaboration model for FAO's collaboration with Middle-income countries explored through the establishment of a partnership and innovation center.



SSC Uganda consultants, FAO officials and local counterparts visited the project demonstration site in Uganda .

## Key Cross-cutting Principles



**Innovation** is essential and a key element of resilience of people and systems able to evolve and adapt efficiently under a changing conditions and hostile environments. Innovation is also at the heart of China's development policy and plays a key role in the agricultural sector development as a whole. FAO China will support innovation in agriculture through all its form, from the grass-root level to policy development and support, fostering knowledge sharing in this area and promoting exchange of innovative practices in favor of a sustainable, social and equitable agriculture development.

**Strategic partnerships are a crucial enabler for achieving** the outcomes and outputs designed. In developing and implementation the CPF, FAO shall seek broad partnership with governments at all levels, civil society, the private sector, academia and research institutions UN agencies, funds and programmes, international financial institutions and inter-governmental entities. A special attention will be given to developing RBA (Rome Based Agencies) partnerships and joint interventions in the area of poverty reduction and rural transformation. This will be achieved through a bottom-up approach based on convergence zones where the three agencies are present and operating projects.

**Communication** is a key driver in resource mobilization and should enhance FAO's visibility on the national and international scene. FAO China will support communication activities through a broad range of methods and tools, including local media, social media and ICTs, to maximize the visibility of FAO programme and foster multi-stakeholders dialogue and collective action.

**Gender equality** is a core development objective of the FAO and a condition for equitable and inclusive development. FAO will promote gender equality and women's economic empowerment throughout its development programming under the CPF and will support China's development and implementation of agriculture policies and interventions that promote gender equality. A preliminary analysis of gender issues in agriculture and rural development was already conducted and can serve as a basis for strengthening programming in this area.