FAO in Europe and Central Asia

2021
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This past year was an extraordinary one throughout the world, and Europe and Central Asia was no exception. Already a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, our lives went through many changes in 2021. For many of us, everyday routines changed: how we work (and even what we do), how we keep in contact with our loved ones, how we buy the goods we need, and so on. This new normal also made our health increasingly central and important, putting an emphasis on healthy eating and nutrition, not only, but also their prerequisite – properly functioning and sustainably managed agriculture.

As the first shocks of the pandemic settled, 2021 opened a window of opportunity to rethink the way our food is produced, processed, transported and consumed and to find new, more conscious approaches for operating our agrifood systems.

The region of Europe and Central Asia – from Lisbon to Vladivostok – reaffirmed several times its commitment to take part in the transformation process of our food systems, demonstrating its engagement during the months leading to the historic United Nations Food Systems Summit and during the event itself.

The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has put its 75-plus years of expertise and redefined Strategic Framework into the service of our Member Nations to help them create better production, better environment, better nutrition, and, ultimately, a better life for everyone.

This effort is highlighted by several important activities, among many others, aimed at supporting the 50-plus countries of Europe and Central Asia: the sharing of knowledge and information; the creation of platforms for dialogue and discussions; the provision of help to farmers, livestock keepers and fishers; the sharing of advice on the formulation of policy; the raising of awareness; and the collecting and analysing of data. All these activities, and many more, were conducted with the goal of improving agrifood systems.

Last year also was remarkable for another reason: It marked the first year of the decade leading to the 2030 target for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

On many levels, Europe and Central Asia is not on the path towards meeting those crucial global goals. Therefore, in 2021, FAO multiplied its efforts to call attention to the importance of sustainability in agriculture and to provide guidance to countries in mainstreaming it. Considering the complexity of the issue, and recognizing that agriculture is the sector most hit by climate change, our projects and interventions became more holistic and integrated in nature as we aimed to bring together more sectors and increase partnership among all actors.

Our mission continues in 2022 and the years to come. With almost 20 offices in the region, FAO remains a reliable partner in creating a better future in which no one is left behind.

Vladimir Rakhmanin
Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, FAO
FAO’s work in Europe and Central Asia and throughout the world is guided by the FAO Strategic Framework, reviewed every four years. In its support for the 2030 Agenda and its drive for a transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, the new FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031 focuses on what are called the four betters – a set of goals that, when implemented, will help ensure that no one is left behind.
BETTER PRODUCTION
Land tenure and consolidation

Agriculture in most FAO programme countries in Europe and Central Asia is dominated by small family farms, often with average farm sizes around 1–3 ha. Land fragmentation and abandonment are excessive, hampering the productivity and competitiveness of small farms and limiting broader agricultural and rural development.

In 2021, FAO continued to support the work in the countries of the region and, jointly with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), FAO produced the Legal Guide on Land Consolidation in Albanian and Serbian. With LEGN, FAO produced a legal brief on land consolidation in English and Russian that targets decision-makers. The study European good practices on land banking provides an analysis and policy recommendations for the introduction of land banking, with a focus on Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

To date, FAO has supported land consolidation instruments in 11 countries in the region, aiming to reduce land fragmentation, increase farm sizes and boost agricultural land market development. In 2021 in North Macedonia, FAO supported the first round of nine field projects under the national land consolidation programme. Initially, these activities focused primarily on supporting agricultural development, combining land consolidation and improved agricultural infrastructure. Furthermore, steps have been taken to develop the programme into a multipurpose instrument that assists with the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, the restoration of nature, and the construction of large-scale infrastructure. In Armenia, FAO supported the government’s land reform agenda, with a focus on improving local farm structures and bringing unutilized agricultural land back into production.

Under the framework of the regional technical network LANDNET, FAO in 2021 spearheaded the organization of virtual webinars on land banking and land consolidation.

One Health

FAO promotes the One Health1 approach in its work on food security and safety, sustainable agriculture, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), nutrition, animal and plant health, fisheries and livelihoods.

In 2021, the tripartite partners – FAO, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO) – in Europe and Central Asia established the Regional One Health Coordination Mechanism, later joined by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). The mechanism provides strategic leadership in the region and serves as a starting point for identifying common priorities, coordinating efforts, planning joint activities and monitoring progress towards effectively addressing health threats originating in interface of humans, animals and the environment. During World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, the Regional One Health Coordination Mechanism launched the first dialogue meeting using the One Health partner platform to discuss the benefits and challenges associated with applying the One Health approach.

In 2019, FAO and OIE launched the Central Asia Animal Health Network as an umbrella to coordinate initiatives and projects related to animal health in Central Asia. Countries prioritized the work on neglected zoonoses, such as brucellosis, highlighting the need for a One Health approach. In line with that, the WHO joined as a permanent partner. The network’s second meeting took place in a hybrid format in late 2021.

1 One Health is an integrated approach that aims to balance the health of people, animals and ecosystems, recognizing that they are closely linked and interdependent.)
One Country One Priority Product

FAO developed its Global Action on Green Development of Special Agricultural Products – One Country One Priority Product – in line with the new FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031 to support Members in addressing the interlinked economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable agrifood systems and to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The participating countries from Europe and Central Asia are Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Republic of Moldova. A regional organizing group was set up to lead the work, developing a roadmap for promoting the initiative throughout the region and assisting in its deployment and implementation in pilot countries. The group made progress in identifying the resources needed for implementation and is working on transforming the roadmap into a project proposal that can be shared with potential donors.

Special agricultural products have not been mainstreamed in research and development, and information about market potential is scarce and scattered. To help overcome this problem, recognizing the need for more technical support in the area of trade and markets, FAO established a partnership with the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies.

[HIGHLIGHTS OF FAO WORK IN THE REGION]
**BETTER NUTRITION**

**Food loss and waste**

Under the umbrella of the global SAVE FOOD Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, FAO has been implementing a comprehensive food loss and waste reduction programme in Europe and Central Asia. In 2021, as part of the programme, FAO continued implementing the National Strategy on Prevention, Reduction and Monitoring of Food Loss and Waste in Turkey. The process of designing national strategies also started in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. FAO analysed key national food value chains to identify main loss and waste points and their causes. FAO also examined legislation and policy frameworks to support informed decision-making.

To help national partners, FAO conducted a series of technical trainings on monitoring, measuring and reporting on food loss and waste and held several workshops on surplus food recovery and redistribution and gender equality principles in food loss and waste.

In close collaboration with major players in the food industry, FAO developed practical guidelines on food loss and waste reduction for households and operators in the retail and hospitality sectors.

FAO launched an awareness-raising campaign in Turkey that has reached more than 21 million people through the support of local municipalities and authorities, major food business operators, civil society, media, and public figures and influencers.

In schools throughout Albania, Lithuania, Portugal, Turkey and Ukraine, FAO rolled out the educational programme “Do Good: Save Food!” to help children develop sustainable habits and contribute to the reduction of food waste in their homes.

**Regional food and nutrition trends**

The 2021 Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition report looked at the trends and progress in Europe and Central Asia regarding the achievement of the SDG 2 target to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition. The report covered analysis of the statistics and trends of food security and nutrition in the region.

Food security and nutrition in the region was influenced by the outbreak of COVID-19 and the resulting disruptions to markets, trade and food supply chains, negatively affecting food security in the region. As a region, Europe and Central Asia had a low prevalence of undernourishment and severe food insecurity when compared with the global data. However, progress towards the elimination of hunger and severe food insecurity in some countries of the region has slowed, and the pandemic added millions of people to the ranks of the food insecure. Progress has been made in reducing various forms of malnutrition. However, most countries in the region have high and increasing rates of adult obesity.

Although the region was doing better than the world in some indicators, there remains an enormous amount of work ahead to achieve the SDGs. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused serious threats to food security and nutrition, especially for low-income and vulnerable populations.

**Nutrition in Central Asia and the Caucasus**

Countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus are experiencing a rapid shift in dietary consumption that coincides with economic and demographic changes. The latest regional analysis showed that adult obesity is growing at a high speed in Central Asia, and micronutrient deficiencies among women are above the global average, too, with unhealthy diets being the leading cause.

With this in mind, FAO continued to advocate for transforming food systems for healthy diets and nutrition in 2021, in close coordination with key regional partners.

To provide additional technical support, FAO launched a regional project in 2021 to improve analytical evidence on dietary and nutrition challenges from food systems perspectives in response to COVID-19 and to promote healthy diets and sustainable food systems. The project will guide the development of food-based dietary guidelines, which are absent in all countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

The first regional training webinar on the food-based dietary guidelines was organized in collaboration with UNICEF Kyrgyzstan and joined by many across all spheres. This clearly showed the multisectoral nature of malnutrition – it is not just a health sector problem.
BETTER ENVIRONMENT

Land degradation neutrality

Land is the primary source of natural capital, and from it we derive a wide range of ecosystem services. With this in mind, countries throughout the world have set voluntary land degradation neutrality targets to reduce and reverse land degradation. To support countries in the region in achieving their targets and reaching the SDGs, FAO in 2021 produced a regional report and decision support system on land degradation neutrality.

The selection of target areas is one of the main challenges in achieving land degradation neutrality. The new decision support system helps integrate relevant information and facilitate the identification of target areas for various types of landscape interventions. It allows anyone to visualize and compare spatially explicit indicators, such as maps that show temporal changes in productivity, land cover or soil organic carbon. The system can be used to monitor and evaluate at different spatial scales, enabling managers to optimize and adapt land management. Users can effectively integrate discrete types and sources of information to prepare reports for various purposes.

Nature-based solutions and biodiversity

To ensure resilient agrifood systems and environmental sustainability, FAO supports countries in the region in mainstreaming nature-based solutions and biodiversity into agriculture. In 2021, the topic was the focus of several virtual events, including a session during the FAO Informal Consultation for Europe and Central Asia and two technical events held as part of the “Hand-in-hand with nature” webinar series.

The publication Hand-in-hand with nature: Nature-based solutions for transformative agriculture was developed in English and Russian. The publication introduces nature-based solutions for Europe and Central Asia, supported by examples from Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems sites. Highlighting seven strong country examples, a study was developed on mapping agroecological approaches that promote nature-based solutions in the region.

Biodiversity conservation is a priority area for FAO in Europe and Central Asia. In 2021, FAO convened the first regional dialogue on mainstreaming biodiversity in the region’s agricultural sectors and published a report on monitoring schemes and the collection of data on biodiversity.

Climate finance

In the region, FAO supports the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change and particularly helps improve national capabilities to access Green Climate Fund (GCF) resources and develop climate change investments. In Serbia and Tajikistan, FAO mobilized more than USD 1 million in GCF grant funds for building the countries’ abilities to access climate finance, similar to ongoing readiness projects in Azerbaijan, North Macedonia and Republic of Moldova. In Azerbaijan, thanks to the GCF readiness project, FAO conducted several studies for the agriculture sectors and organized many national events to increase awareness about climate change.

In the framework of the Nationally Determined Contribution Partnership, FAO supported Albania, Tajikistan and Ukraine in updating their nationally determined contributions.

At the regional level, a webinar helped countries better prepare for the COP26 climate negotiations. Additionally, FAO launched numerous publications, including a climate finance toolkit and a policy analysis report of nationally determined contributions in the region. This latter report found that agriculture and other land use sectors are particularly vulnerable in many countries of the region and, as such, are one of the main priority sectors for climate change interventions.

Regional Technical Platform

FAO’s support for the spread of knowledge and the sharing of information on science, innovation and practice is as old as the Organization itself. Led and coordinated by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, the Regional Technical Platform on Green Agriculture is an important element in this pursuit. Green agriculture plays a vital role in transforming local agrifood systems, as it can help reduce the toll on natural resources and avoid environmental degradation while reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Established in 2021, in line with FAO’s Strategic Framework for 2022–2031, the Regional Technical Platform provides a digital, user-friendly and open gateway for sharing information on various topics related to green agriculture, enhancing global collaboration with international, national and local development partners.
BETTER LIFE

Social Protection

Recognizing the critical role social protection plays in advancing food security and nutrition, developing agriculture and building resilience, especially in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, FAO has attached a high priority to policy and programme support for social protection in the region.

FAO finalized a regional report in 2021 that should provide the basis for future action. The report explores the risks faced by vulnerable rural populations in FAO programme countries and highlights gaps in social protection. It argues that the pre-pandemic social protection discourse in the region focused primarily on administrative, technical or finance issues, and until recently there has been little knowledge of – and little policy attention given to – the potential of appropriately designed and financed social protection programmes. Such programmes could spur inclusive rural transformation processes, improve nutrition and dietary outcomes, empower women, and reduce child labour.

FAO plans to continue promoting the findings through events that shed light on the coherence between social protection and, among others, agricultural policies, to increase the effectiveness of national social protection systems and build their capacities to help rural populations exit poverty.

Youth

Throughout Europe and Central Asia, agriculture depends heavily on family farms. Thus, maintaining the viability of agriculture requires the generational renewal of family farms in rural areas. That is why FAO has placed such a high priority on empowering youth in the region, making it a cross-cutting area of work and embedding it in FAO’s regional initiatives. An FAO regional initiative pledges to empower smallholders, family farms and youth through inclusive rural transformation, digitalization and innovation – eliminating rural poverty, improving the resilience of rural populations and promoting inclusive growth in rural economies.

Through the mobilization of local youth organizations and partners in Europe and Central Asia, FAO gave strong support to the World Food Forum in 2021. Additionally, responding to a request from Members at the Regional Conference for Europe, FAO launched a series of youth consultations in December 2021. The goals of these consultations were to understand the challenges and needs of rural youth, share good practices, and collect information necessary to plan the Organization’s work in the region.
CROSS-CUTTING THEMES AND ACCELERATORS

To perform its critical work in the region, FAO addresses cross cutting themes (gender, youth and inclusions) as critical areas to ensure that no one is left behind. In addition, four accelerators – technology, innovation, data and complements – are means to accelerate progress and maximize efforts in meeting the SDGs and to realize the four betters while minimizing trade-offs. In the framework of these accelerators, FAO worked in myriad ways throughout 2021 to advance progress towards achieving the SDGs and attaining FAO’s vision of a world free from hunger. Below are a few highlights.
POLICY ACTIONS TO TRANSFORM FOOD SYSTEMS

While the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc throughout the world, disrupting all manner of operations, the need to achieve the SDGs nonetheless continued unabated. To maintain momentum and even accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs, FAO organized a virtual roundtable at the 2021 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development to share, through country case studies, concrete policy actions and initiatives that can help improve food systems and make healthy diets accessible to all.

In partnership with the International Institute on Sustainable Development, FAO supported national institutions in Albania, Georgia, Serbia and Uzbekistan in identifying and implementing coherent policy measures to accelerate progress towards realizing the SDGs.

At the country level, FAO supported Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. In Uzbekistan, FAO organized webinars and technical trainings to help the country implement the new Agricultural Development Strategy in the context of the SDGs and strengthen the monitoring and reporting of SDG indicators. In five districts of Tajikistan, FAO facilitated the development of plans to support localizing the SDGs.

Furthermore, FAO conducted national statistical workshops on selected SDG indicators in Turkey and Turkmenistan and provided regional assistance on the SDG food loss and waste indicators and on productive and sustainable agriculture.

DIGITAL VILLAGES

The Europe and Central Asia region presents a unique context for implementing the FAO Digital Village Initiative, which aims to convert 1000 villages across the world into digital hubs. The European Union has already acquired rich experience in developing smart villages, and FAO has been working to leverage this experience to enable the digital transformation of other villages in the region. In 2021, FAO explored the idea of connecting existing smart villages with less digitalized villages to stimulate knowledge and technology transfer.

Digital villages cannot be developed in isolation and should be embedded into wider national strategies. To assist in this effort, FAO supported Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey in developing digital agriculture strategies for improving information technology infrastructure and rural connectivity, delivering meaningful services and data to people in rural areas and promoting bottom-up, technology-driven innovations. In addition, FAO conducted digital agriculture assessments and situational analyses in several countries, including Albania, Kosovo,2 Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Serbia

2 References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).
and Ukraine. In the Republic of Moldova, FAO conducted further assessments to identify market barriers and enablers for the development of e-commerce platforms to increase market access for farmers.

Developing human capital in rural areas is essential to unleashing the potential of digital villages and bridging the rural divide. In several municipalities of Albania, FAO partnered with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to train farmers and extension service providers on the application of innovative digital solutions to produce quality olive oil, apples, vegetables and dairy products.

Together with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), FAO conducted a digital excellence in agriculture contest to identify, showcase and celebrate innovative digital solutions and good practices that are transforming rural areas and smallholder farming in the region.

With more than 170 applications from 38 countries, the initiative revealed a diverse, dynamic and forward-thinking ecosystem of innovators and problem-solvers.

**ISSUE-BASED COALITION ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

In 2020, FAO advocated for the establishment of an Issue-based Coalition dedicated to sustainable food systems as a regional United Nations mechanism uniting the expertise of eight UN agencies for multisectoral and coordinated guidance on sustainable food systems. This past year, in 2021, the coalition supported local UN country teams in including aspects of the food systems in the development of national processes and provided them a repository of key messages, evidence and good practices on COVID-19 and food systems. To aide countries in preparing for the United Nations Food Systems Summit, guidance and information was disseminated by the coalition, a series of Food Systems Talks was organized, and a regional community of practice was launched as an inclusive and open digital space for the sharing of knowledge and information on policies related to food systems. Members also benefited from discussions at a regional Food Systems Summit dialogue on policy and governance issues to transform food systems in Europe and Central Asia.

Additional events shaping the regional discussion on food systems included:

- an event on food policy, rural development and gender equality co-organized by the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow;
- an event on sustainable food systems, held in collaboration with the Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security;
- a webinar series and regional workshop focused on sustainable food systems; and
- a subregional conference on food loss and waste.

Finally, FAO began the work of developing profiles of the key drivers, statuses and outcomes of national food systems in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization countries.

**GENDER**

Through its country gender assessment series, FAO provided crucial policy advice and technical assistance for socially inclusive and gender equitable agrifood systems. This important work addresses women’s economic empowerment and leadership and is based on evidence gathered from the region. In 2021, FAO released gender analysis for Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine.

With FAO support, the State Committee of Forestry in Uzbekistan adopted its first sectoral gender strategy to support rural women in
forest-dependent communities. In Tajikistan, climate change policies addressed the needs and priorities of rural women and young girls.

To strengthen policy dialogue at the regional level, FAO collaborated with the Moscow National Research University Higher School of Economics to organize an international forum focused on food policy, rural development and gender equality in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

In support of rural women, FAO helped develop agrifood value chains in Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. Innovative banking services for rural women involved in agriculture were piloted in Georgia. In Turkey, women-led cooperatives combined skills development for Syrian women refugees and low-income Turkish women to increase economic income and improve social coherence.

FAO supports strengthened monitoring of SDG 5 on gender equality and women’s empowerment in the region. In the Western Balkans, the Organization collaborated with GIZ and the International Union of Notaries to assist the SDG reporting process on gender equality in land ownership and control. Guidelines on strengthening gender equality in land registration and country-level guides for notarial practices in the Western Balkans offer practical guidance when handling issues pertaining to gender-sensitive property transactions. Also in 2021, FAO assisted relevant actors in Turkmenistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan in improving their capacities on sex-disaggregated data collection and SDG reporting.

In addition, FAO continues to publish a quarterly gender newsletter in the region that features case studies and good practices supported by the Organization.
COUNTRIES: PROJECT OVERVIEW

In each of the FAO programme countries in Europe and Central Asia, the Organization and its many partners achieved great success in 2021 in advancing towards the four betters – better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life. Below is a snapshot of these developments.
ALBANIA

In Albania, FAO supported farmers and agro-processors affected by the 2019 earthquake through grants to rehabilitate livelihoods and strengthen resilience to future shocks. To improve farmers’ access to formal financing, FAO has examined the demand and supply sides of the financial sector and identified gaps between farmers and financial institutions.

FAO also contributes to building long-term resilience in Albania by strengthening the country’s disaster risk reduction system. During 2021, several consultations and trainings focused on damage and loss assessment in the agriculture sector.

In the framework of the Paris Agreement and efforts to achieve long-term global goals, FAO contributed to the revision of Albania’s nationally determined contributions, focusing on agriculture, forestry and other land use sectors.

Multiple events took place in Albania to help the country fight climate change and its consequences, which in recent decades have included floods, droughts and invasive marine species. With the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, FAO raised awareness on climate change matters and introduced the ecosystem-based approach to natural resource management and further good practices to farmers and artisanal fisheries in the most-affected areas.

FAO held a series of workshops to teach farmers and representatives of extension services and local governments about climate-smart agriculture, integrated pest management, and sustainable soil management and land use. FAO also established demonstration fields to introduce good agricultural practices on soil management to counter land erosion and promote enhanced soil management.

In addition, an assessment was conducted of the land use, water, and agroecological situation in the Permet region, and a digital soil map was developed to enhance the availability of current soil data for data-based decision-making. For the first time in the country, digital maps were created on soil types, agroecological areas, irrigation schemes and other aspects.

In the framework of a gender project implemented with UN Women, FAO conducted a gender-responsive value chain study that should lead to the establishment of agri-incubators to empower rural women. Access to knowledge, information and modern technology is crucial for rural women.

Considering that, FAO assessed the existing bottlenecks in gender-responsive rural advisory services in Albania and trained staff on gender-responsive interventions.

FAO supported the Albanian Institute of Statistics in preparing for the 2023 agriculture census, an important source of statistical data regarding the agricultural sector.

In a comprehensive effort, FAO assisted in the development of a concept note on school food nutrition and a feasibility study and specific recommendations for a school milk programme. The project provided training and equipment to farmers for improving food safety and boosting milk quality. Nutrition guides and education materials help teachers educate various age groups.
ARMENIA

In 2021, the key focus areas of FAO’s programme in Armenia were transforming food systems, improving livelihoods and helping climate change adaptation. Together with UNDP and the Austrian Development Agency, FAO is part of a wide collaboration of national and international actors, that has supported community-driven local development initiatives through piloting the EU LEADER rural development methodology.

In June 2021, Armenia signed up to increase its forest cover and carbon removal from forests. The region’s first large-scale FAO intervention supported by the GCF, the project aims to increase forest cover by 2.5 percent, reduce the fuelwood demand of rural communities by at least 30 percent, enable sustainable and climate-adaptive forest management, and ensure technology transfer to rural communities, the private sector, and institutions as part of a forest–energy nexus approach. The Armenian branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature also joined the effort.

An FAO emergency assistance project provided much-needed agricultural support – including animal feed, equipment, and materials for building temporary shelter for livestock – to conflict-affected vulnerable groups in Armenia. The main goal of the project was to protect and rebuild the livelihoods of displaced and host communities after the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis.

AZERBAIJAN

Under the FAO–Azerbaijan Partnership Programme, FAO in 2021 continued to help develop sustainable agrifood systems and agricultural production, with special attention to sheep production and value chains. Youth, women and other rural groups received employment support trainings in business development and management. The FAO Country Gender Assessment for Azerbaijan provided crucial information regarding the state of women in rural areas of the country. Another key document related to rural growth was an assessment of the potentials and challenges of the development of the hazelnut sector.

A European Union-funded FAO project further improved rural life via the development of an innovative, sustainable, efficient, market-oriented, and gender-sensitive agricultural advisory services provision system, which was adopted by the Agrarian Services Agency. Additionally, FAO continued to promote local food products as an alternative source of growth, helping to establish local food producer groups and facilitating their work through training and market access.

Agriculture plays a major role in creating a sustainable future. Therefore, FAO trained ministry staff with the aim of strengthening the National Forest Assessment and Monitoring System. With financial support from the GCF, FAO improved the potential of implementing the nationally determined contributions and analysed the applicability of climate-friendly solutions and technologies in agriculture.

In terms of animal health, FAO carried out activities to improve the accurate detection and diagnosis of transboundary animal diseases, helping Azerbaijan reach peste de petit ruminants-free status. FAO also surveyed the prevalence of antimicrobial resistance in the livestock sector.
New private sector partnerships with Agrarco and Azersun have pushing FAO closer to realizing strategic goals in Azerbaijan and bringing about transformative change, innovation and measurable impact.

BELARUS

To help slow the advance of antimicrobial resistance in Belarus, an FAO project led to the creation of a training programme for dairy farmers and veterinarians. In addition, various instructional materials were created and disseminated at events, and lectures were delivered to veterinary students.

At the country’s request, FAO facilitated an online training by the All-Russian Plant Quarantine Centre in Bykovo, on plant pest surveillance. The work was conducted as part of an FAO project to enhance the national plant pest surveillance and phytosanitary certification system in Belarus.

An additional FAO project helped improve the food safety capacities of several beneficiaries in such areas as Codex Alimentarius activities, risk analysis, export requirements, laboratory testing, and European Union food safety requirements. Through the training of trainers approach, FAO will assist in future collaboration and knowledge exchange. FAO also trained national experts in the assessment of land degradation and created a technical manual that can be used in future training.

FAO also conducted a comprehensive review and analysis of the legal, policy and institutional frameworks and programmes in Belarus related to disaster risk reduction, producing a baseline report that is being integrated into a synthesis report covering the entire region.

Finally, in response to bark beetle outbreaks and pine forest dieback, FAO conducted various activities in Belarus aimed at strengthening forest resilience and boosting government capacities to react rapidly to pest invasions.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, digitalization is one of the key paths towards the realization of the European Union-led green agenda. In consultation with key partners, FAO developed the framework document for the country’s future e-agriculture strategy, including key priorities, proposed actions, and recommendations for the improvement of digital skills. Additionally, during its assessment of digital services and solutions, FAO identified more than 20 good practices in use by public and private sector pioneers in Bosnia and Herzegovina and summarized them in one publication.

Access to international markets, including the European Union, for agricultural commodities poses rigorous food safety requirements, demanding certification in accordance with the recognized standards.

In 2021, FAO experts delivered a number of training sessions on a popular food certification standards, for institutions and farmers, with a special aim to further develop rural tourism and the plum and potato value chains.

FAO also applied the value chain approach for the development and diversification of the rural economy of the municipality of Pale in the eastern part of the country. The rural tourism plan was developed as a part of that effort, using a multisectoral and area-based development approach.

GEORGIA

Georgia’s National Animal Identification and Traceability System is now fully operational as a result of a major five-year FAO project. Georgia became the first country in the region to introduce a system for collecting and recording information on animal production. FAO and Georgia’s National Food Agency implemented this project with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Austrian Development Cooperation.

The new system, which incorporates about 900 users (veterinarians and inspectors) and more than 250 000 animal holdings, documents the full path of the animals (including more than 1 million bovines) from farm to plate, making the system an important part of the food safety chain puzzle.

More than 600 farmers received community or individual support under an FAO–Austrian Development Cooperation project aimed at developing rural communities, strengthening the commercial activities of rural populations, increasing incomes, and empowering rural
women. With the help of these matching support schemes, locals were able to solve problems with drinking and irrigation water, equip a clinic and school, and expand business in the poultry, beekeeping and dairy sectors.

Additionally, FAO and the European Union awarded approximately USD 5.1 million in matching grants to agricultural producers in Georgia. The grants supported capital investments in Georgia’s agriculture sector aimed at increasing competitiveness, creating jobs, and ensuring stability in food supplies.

Through these matching grants, Georgian farmers, rural households, cooperatives, and small and medium producers could purchase new machinery, optimize processing and storage with automated solutions, and buy equipment for large-scale dairy, vegetable, and fruit productions, among many other options.

In 2021, cereal farmers in 14 villages of the northern region of Georgia decided to switch to no-till farming, applying conservation agriculture introduced by the European Union and FAO to increase yields and lower cultivation costs while increasing their resilience to climate change. Under the EU’s ENPARD programme, FAO has promoted the environmentally friendly no-till method since 2019, gradually increasing the number of farmers involved in the process and advancing them towards a full conservation agriculture system that includes mulching and crop rotation in addition to no-till farming.

KAZAKHSTAN

In 2021, FAO supported the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan in developing a new strategic document for the country’s agrifood sector for 2021–2025, covering the country’s entire food and agriculture sector, including crop production and diversification, dairy and meat livestock, poultry farming, phytosanitary and veterinary safety, and digitalization.

Soil salinization greatly affects Kazakhstan, but maps presenting the soil salinity of several regions of the country had not been updated since the 1980s. Under a GCF-financed project, FAO and the Ministry Committee for Land Resources Management produced up-to-date soil salinity maps, including for the Kyzylorda region, where large areas are affected by salinization due to Aral Sea desiccation. These maps provide scientists, decision-makers and farmers with valuable information on the state of natural resources and the environment. FAO plans to further support the ministry in developing these maps and upscaling them to other regions of the country.

In the country’s capital, Nur-Sultan, FAO held a mini marathon to mark World Food Day and promote healthy lifestyle and nutrition. The efforts helped raised awareness of the need to create more sustainable agrifood systems that do not harm the environment.

KYRGYZSTAN

Leading up to the 2021 United Nations Food System Summit, Kyrgyzstan conducted a series of dialogues with wide participation from food system actors. FAO actively supported these dialogues and co-organized events with the media and youth to teach options for improving food security and nutrition.
FAO has been spearheading efforts to control locust pests in Kyrgyzstan since 2015 with support from the Government of Japan. FAO provided additional emergency support during COVID-19 to prevent crop and pasture damages and help ensure food security.

FAO has trained specialists and purchased special field equipment and tablets to allow the digital collection and analysis of locust data in the field. The tablets are connected to an online system used by the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, giving specialists access to a wider range of information.

FAO provided its technical expertise and support to strengthen evidence-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation policies in agriculture through the development of a report on the impacts on agriculture of emergencies and natural hazards. The document compiles, for the first time, current and historical data on climate, emergencies, damages and the impacts of natural hazards on the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and water sectors. In addition, an artificial glacier was built in a pasture in the Jalpak-Tash community to provide irrigation and water for the livestock in an area with no access to water.

At the beginning of 2021, an FAO project funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) helped the State Agency for Land Resources renew its special facilities by purchasing new equipment for its soil laboratory. Thus far, it has allowed for better and faster collection and cultivation of soil; in the long run, it can help ensure better soil fertility and reduced soil degradation.

In Kyrgyzstan, where most people live in rural areas, small-scale agriculture and animal husbandry are the main sources of food and income. FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Regional Development, and the Ministry of Education and Science have been supporting the development of poultry farming in rural and suburban areas of the country. Not only does this contribute to the development of poultry farming as an industry in the seven selected regions, but it also helps members of vulnerable households and remote schools diversify their diets and improve their health and financial situations.

In another project, FAO supported national efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance in the production of livestock, one of the biggest sectors in Kyrgyzstan. During World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, FAO promoted
the responsible use of antimicrobials in all sectors alongside the WHO and national authorities.

With financial support from Finland, FAO completed a project on the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in April 2021. As a result of the project, small hatcheries of carp and trout, small feed mills, and fish processing enterprises were built and put into operation, and new strains of common carp were imported to improve genetic stock. The project also made an impact on policy and legislation, targeting ministry employees and farmers, strengthening and improving expert knowledge, and facilitating a multiannual programme for the development of aquaculture and fisheries.

**MONTENEGRO**

FAO held a simulation exercise in 2021 on African swine fever in Podgorica, Montenegro, as part of a wider effort to help Balkan countries bolster their capacities to respond to a possible outbreak of African swine fever. In concluding the two-year project, a meeting later encouraged the five target Balkan countries to discuss their achievements and plan potential follow-up activities.

**NORTH MACEDONIA**

In 2021, under the European Union- and FAO-funded MAINLAND project, FAO helped the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy further mainstream and scale up the country’s national land consolidation programme. Currently, land consolidation is advancing in nine areas of North Macedonia, covering around 3000 ha of agricultural land and benefiting approximately 2500 agricultural landowners and families through improved farm productivity and community life.

The effort has made North Macedonia a forerunner in the region in implementing complex structural land reforms. To date, the MAINLAND project has reduced the number of land parcels by at least 50 percent while improving irrigation and drainage systems to ensure higher agricultural productivity and efficiency and increased resilience to extreme weather conditions. In this way, land consolidation can help mitigate land abandonment and the desertification of farmland.

In 2021, FAO and the ministry supported local community development in several villages, addressing key social, economic and environmental challenges. To meet the needs identified in each community, small-scale investments were made to improve rural living, especially regarding the educational environment. FAO equipped three pilot sites with modern plastic tunnels, irrigation equipment, and hydroponic and heating systems for the demonstration and practical use of innovative, climate-smart agriculture technologies. These pilot sites will be maintained by local schools and cooperatives, benefiting more than 300 high school students and young farmers as they learn and practice climate-smart technologies and thus improve crop production and increase resilience to climate change.
With FAO support, the ministry started integrating data from various national environmental platforms and databases on climate, soils, terrain, statistics and more with existing global data into a single Earth Map platform developed by FAO and Google. This should enable timely and effective policy formulation, decision-making and interventions for sustainable agriculture, and it should help the country meet international obligations, such as reporting on the SDGs. This information will be made available to farmers through an application to support their decision-making and uptake of sustainable farm practices.

To better align the agriculture sector with European Union standards, FAO worked closely with the line ministry supporting the reform of the national direct payment scheme by preparing a report about the consequences of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) alignment process. The report analysed the impacts on farmers’ incomes of decoupling direct payments and provided various decoupling scenarios in accordance with CAP regulations.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

FAO helped more than 150 farmers in two pilot regions increase their abilities to promote local agrifood products. Participants, both women and men, were trained in marketing and promotional tools and in developing rural tourism plans for their businesses. The results included increased sales of organic and honey production and diversified access to new markets for farmers living in the pilot communities.

Agroecological concepts and principles were widely promoted through an awareness-raising campaign that culminated in the country’s first international agroecology conference. Representatives of public administrations, the private sector, research institutes and development partners participated in discussions on the challenges and opportunities of agroecology in the country. As a result, Republic of Moldova embraced the ten principles of agroecology, making them a priority in the next National Strategy on Agriculture and Rural Development.

FAO has held a leading role in assisting Republic of Moldova in adapting to climate in its agriculture sectors. The Organization implemented activities to mainstream climate change adaptation in national and local policies related to agricultural development. As a prerequisite for this objective, FAO completed a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of climate change on the agriculture sector, including on production, ecosystems, livestock and livelihoods.

SERBIA

On the occasion of the 2021 International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, FAO helped increase awareness among Serbian youth of the benefits of better nutrition and diets rich in fruits and vegetables. Activities targeted schoolchildren throughout Serbia, including those in remote and rural areas and in poor regions. The campaign has continued through the early months of 2022. For World Food Day, kindergartens, primary schools and high schools were challenged to take part in FAO competitions to promote healthy nutrition, healthy lifestyles and sustainable food systems.

FAO has started a project to help Serbia assess the risks of diffuse agricultural soil pollution and plans to facilitate the proper use of remediation practices on agricultural land in Serbia, with the ultimate goal of protecting the environment and promoting sustainable agricultural production in the country. The project bridges gaps in assessing and managing diffuse pollution.
agricultural soil pollution and addresses the lack of data on the usage of fertilizers and pesticides. Specifically, it assists Serbian authorities in identifying highly concerning substances, increases the knowledge and awareness of farmers in reducing the risks of diffuse soil pollution, and improves pesticide and fertilizer management.

In summer 2021, FAO, in collaboration with Vojvodinassume and the EBRD, held ten training events for hunters to widen their knowledge of hunting biosecurity and African swine fever. The disease was first detected in 2019 in the country, and outbreaks have been noticed both in domestic pigs and wild boar. In 2021, new outbreaks were reported, with additional areas affected.

One FAO project focuses on collecting and reviewing baseline information about population numbers, production indicators and other data for Busha cattle, a local, resistant cattle breed. Through the project, FAO has been conducting consultations with relevant breeders and farmers to establish a basis for the conservation and development of the breed. A Busha cattle exhibition took place in Dimitrovgrad, in southeastern Serbia, to raise awareness among farmers and consumers about the benefits and products of the breed. Since the cattle breed also is present in other Balkan countries, the results of the conservation activities can be upscaled and used elsewhere.

Serbia, in its preparations for the UN Food System Summit, with support of FAO and the UN Resident Coordinator Office, initiated a series of dialogues to define priorities for sustainable food systems transformation. The dialogues, which gathered representatives from all sectors, helped Serbia become recognized as a leader in the food system transformation process.

**TAJIKISTAN**

In 2021, FAO continued supporting farmers in Tajikistan with valuable technical assistance, helping them overcome the consequences of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities included the continuation of a matching grants programme to leverage the investments of labour migrants and their families into agricultural sectors.

In the southwestern Khatlon district, FAO supported the Government of Tajikistan in combating locust invasions through several initiatives, including a regional project supported by Japan. The Organization provided equipment, training and essential materials for controlling locusts in the field. Furthermore over 800 farmers who had suffered from floods and...
mudflows in Khatlon received over 23 tonnes of various vegetable seeds, in addition to training and other technical assistance.

FAO also assisted with the development of the sustainable seed production subsector, which is built on smallholder farmers. With support from Japan and other donors, more than 100 tonnes of high-quality seeds were distributed, increasing the scope of seed production by creating informal producer groups and linking them to production cooperatives.

**TURKEY**

Under an e-agriculture project, FAO provided rural farmers with information about digital agriculture opportunities, giving them access to information and enabling them to create inventories and visual maps of digital uses and production trends and to prepare strategic policy documents on e-agriculture. A national e-agriculture strategy, prepared in cooperation with FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, will contribute to the digital transformation of agriculture in the country.

Turkey’s Konya closed basin, funded by the GEF and executed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, that aims to advance the adoption of low-carbon technologies, sustainable land management, biodiversity conservation, and climate change. Under its climate-smart agriculture component, the project introduced programmed irrigation techniques to improve water use efficiency and increase savings on water and energy while simultaneously boosting yields on maize, sugar beet and apple orchard demonstration plots.

In the context of biodiversity protection, FAO and the ministry carried out two GEF-funded projects in Şanlıurfa and the Konya closed basin. During field studies within the scope of a steppe ecosystem conservation and sustainable management project, wild relatives of popular cereals were identified to help achieve better resilience and food security.

Through another FAO effort at sustainable land management and climate-friendly agriculture in the Konya closed basin, an integrated forest management plan and a biodiversity and habitat management plan were created as models for biodiversity conservation and integration at the national level.

Also in 2021, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry launched a joint national “Save your food” campaign to raise public awareness about the detrimental impacts of food loss and waste and to stimulate action along the food supply chain. With input from more than 100 interested parties, FAO and the ministry produced Turkey’s first National Strategy and Action Plan on the Prevention and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste.

Under the scope of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021 and the “Save your food” campaign, FAO collaborated with the retail chain market Migros to hold activities in the company’s stores in Turkey that shed light on the benefits of a diversified diet and fruit and vegetable consumption.

With financial support from the European Union, FAO organized job fair marathons for Syrians Under Temporary Protection and their host communities in ten provinces of Turkey. The events provided an opportunity for those who had previously benefited from FAO vocational training to meet local workforce and private sector representatives and, eventually, enter the labour market.
TURKMENISTAN

To scale up FAO’s work in Turkmenistan, a Country Programming Framework for Turkmenistan, derived from the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, was developed to guide a partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection for 2021–2025.

Under a GEF-funded FAO project on integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey, activities in Turkmenistan focused on the application of various adaptation and mitigation measures through demonstrations of drought mitigation and salinity management technologies. The project also worked to increase the skills, knowledge and preparedness of partners to cope with the adverse effects of climate change.

Turkmenistan is part of many regional projects implemented under the FAO–Turkey Partnership Programme on Food and Agriculture. Under the FISHCap fisheries project, experts from Turkmenistan attended webinars and workshops on the state of the fishery and aquaculture industry, focusing on such topics as climate change adaptation in fisheries and aquaculture, carp farming, medicinal leeches, safety for fisheries and aquaculture products, and fish health management.

Another project has targeted the reduction of food loss and waste throughout the country. Activities underway in Turkmenistan include an assessment of food loss and waste along priority value chains, based on a survey of value chain actors and field observations, and an analysis of national legislation and policies relating to food loss and waste prevention and management.

A multicountry initiative aims to increase the capacities of Turkmenistan and other countries to analyse and improve the efficiency of small ruminant production systems. The project also aims to establish innovative approaches to knowledge transfer for livestock holders, such as farmer field schools and the direct coaching of farmers by national and international experts.

Also in 2021, a new regional project designed to improve national and regional locust management in Central Asia and Afghanistan became operational. The ultimate beneficiaries of the project, which is funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, will be the rural population living in locust-affected areas. The project aims to help assure their food security and livelihoods through better prevention of locust outbreaks and upsurges.

UKRAINE

Ukraine is a leading global food producer with a large share of smallholder farms. FAO supports the development of smallholder farmers, in particular those in the eastern part of the country, through facilitating technology
transfer and innovation to farmers. To ensure sustainable production, as well as to combat land degradation, a GEF-funded project helps reduce soil erosion and depletion of the land resources.

Ukraine has great potential for forestry development, but limiting factors related to global environmental processes have resulted in a highly increased proportion of dying forest stands and damage to trees by pests and diseases. To protect these forests for future generations, FAO launched a project in January 2021 to help increase the resilience of forest ecosystems against unfavourable biotic and abiotic factors and droughts and combat the dieback of pine forests. The project goals are in line with Ukraine’s national priorities related to the environment and the management of natural resources, including forestry and fisheries, and to broader global efforts such as the SDGs.

Responding to a request from the Government of Ukraine, FAO helped the country to create a foreign agricultural attaché infrastructure. FAO has developed a handbook on agricultural economic diplomacy, detailing the role of an agricultural attaché in-country, and an associated training course based on good practices that should build knowledge and skills among attachés. In May, a training of trainers took place involving potential agricultural attachés and advisers.

To explore and analyse gender issues in agriculture and food security, FAO developed the first country gender assessment for Ukraine. Part of a series, the report acknowledged women’s role in food systems and rural development and notes that their unequal access to land and other assets and resources limits their economic opportunities and puts them at risk of being left behind. The report provided recommendations on how to increase agricultural productivity, food security and sustainable rural development, which cannot happen unless the distinct and complementary roles of women and men are recognized and their social and economic equality assured.

**UZBEKISTAN**

For Uzbekistan, the year 2021 was the start of a new Country Programming Framework (CPF) cycle, running up to 2025. In the CPF, FAO pledged support for Uzbekistan in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving sustainable food systems along the entire agrifood value chain.

An important element in Uzbekistan’s cooperation with FAO was the country’s preparation for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. The Ministry of Agriculture and FAO, jointly with UNDP and the UN Resident Coordinator Office, hosted a series of national and subnational dialogues to mobilize countrywide support and response to the Summit.

Under an FAO project on sustainable forest management in the country’s mountain and valley areas, funded by the GEF, forest plantations were created on 1220 ha, containing more than 265 000 seedlings across four pilot plots.

An international conference focused on gender equality in the Uzbekistan forestry system provided an opportunity to review and analyse the status of gender mainstreaming in the country’s agriculture.

FAO also collaborated with the UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable citizens in the Aral Sea region to address economic difficulties and food insecurity. A series of trainings was conducted for rural populations on agricultural production and water-saving technologies.

Over the past year, an FAO project on integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey, funded by the GEF, achieved significant results. In particular, more than 100 beneficiaries received greenhouses, both as socioeconomic support during the COVID-19 pandemic and to improve children’s knowledge on environmental protection in agriculture and the rational use of natural resources. Under the project, the Centre of Hydrometeorological Service was granted 12 innovative agrometeorological stations, and the Tashkent State Agrarian University received equipment for soil analysis. The project also supported the establishment at the university of a new laboratory for geographic information systems, equipped with the most modern computers and other equipment.

In cooperation with national partners, FAO supported the organization of the Global
Symposium on Salt-Affected Soils. On the opening day, FAO launched the Global Map of Salt-Affected Soils, a key tool for stopping salinization and boosting productivity, with data from more than 100 countries.

In December 2021, the first International Conference on Cold Winter Deserts was held in Tashkent within the framework of the Central Asian Desert Initiative project, organized by FAO, the State Forestry Committee and the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the University of Greifswald and the Michael Succow Foundation. The conference provided a platform to discuss the sustainable use and conservation of temperate desert areas in Central Asia.
RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The total financial resources mobilized by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia during 2021 was USD 45.4 million – more than double the USD 20.6 million mobilized during 2020. In 2021, 97 percent of the amount was allocated for development projects, with 3 percent for emergency activities.

In 2021, the six major resource partners of FAO in Europe and Central Asia were the European Union, with USD 18.2 million for approved new projects, followed by the GCF, with USD 10.7 million, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), with USD 2.7 million. Major recipient countries of contributions from resource partners in 2021 were Ukraine, Armenia and Serbia.

A remarkable trend in the region in terms of resource mobilization is the increased collaboration of FAO country offices with financial institutions, particularly the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. For instance, FAO Serbia is expected to implement jointly with the EBRD a GCF project on green growth that has been under formulation since 2021. Also since 2021, FAO Georgia and FAO Tajikistan are in discussions with the World Bank regarding joint country initiatives to promote land consolidation and the seed sector, respectively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources mobilized during 2019–2021 (million USD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total new approvals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top 10 resource partners in Europe and Central Asia in 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Total (million USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>18 228.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Green Climate Fund</td>
<td>10 750.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Global Environment Facility</td>
<td>2994.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>2250.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UNDP Administered Trust Funds</td>
<td>2062.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>1701.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>1631.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>1452.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>UNDP Administered Donor Joint Trust Fund</td>
<td>1092.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>882.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Countries for resource mobilization in 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total (million USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>17 489.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>12 381.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>3034.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>2739.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Subregional Office for Central Asia</td>
<td>2696.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>1701.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>1388.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>1256.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Regional Europe</td>
<td>918.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>707.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

FAO and Turkey signed a South-South cooperation (SSC) agreement in 2021 regarding the deployment of Turkish experts under the FAO–Turkey Partnership Programme to provide technical expertise and knowledge to Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan and to help develop solutions for common development issues in the food and agriculture sector. Further SSC efforts are in discussion, including with Azerbaijan and a regional project on aquaculture expected to be funded under the ongoing global SSC FAO–China Trust Fund.

COMMUNICATION IN NUMBERS

In 2021, the dedicated website for FAO’s work in Europe and Central Asia, available in English and Russian, received more than 150 000 distinct visitors, with almost 325 000 total page views. Among many other features, the website provides a convenient entry point to recent webinars on such important topics as COVID-19 impacts, food loss and waste, and food safety; in total, the webinars garnered more than 5000 views in 2021.

On Twitter, the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia is responsible for operating the corporate @FAORussian account, which has almost 700 followers and a reach of around 3.7 million. On its corporate account, the office posts information of global and specific regional interest. Beyond that, other country-specific FAO Twitter accounts operate in the region, including @FAOAzerbaijan, @FAOBrussels, @FAOKazakhstan, @FAOMoscow, @faoturkiye and @FAOUkraine.

FAO also has a strong presence on the Viber messaging app, with 2021 having marked the third year of partnership. FAO operates three communities on the popular app, including two dedicated to World Food Day (one each in English and in Russian) and a third for fighting world hunger. Among the three Viber communities, there are nearly 600 000 total followers.

PUBLICATIONS

In total, the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia released 208 publications in 2021, of which 90 were in English, 45 in Russian, 21 in Turkish, and the rest in other languages. Including the flagship publication Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia, published in English and Russian, the office produced 35 books, 110 brochures, flyers and fact sheets, and 28 newsletters.

In addition to the flagship publication Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia, published in English and Russian, the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia published 37 books in 11 languages (Albanian, English, Georgian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Moldovan, Montenegrin, Portuguese, Russian, Romanian and Ukrainian) in 2021.

Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia, published in English and Russian, the office produced 35 books, 110 brochures, flyers and fact sheets, and 28 newsletters. Among these books, four were published in the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circulars series and another four in the country gender assessment series. Other major titles included: Policy analysis of Nationally Determined Contributions in the Europe and Central Asia region; Climate Finance Toolkit for Europe and Central Asia; The impact of COVID-19 on agriculture, food and rural areas in Central Asia and Caucasus countries; Overview of organic agriculture development in Europe and Central Asia, and Digital excellence in agriculture in Europe and Central Asia: Good practices in the field of digital agriculture, published in cooperation with the ITU.

The FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia also published 50 brochures, flyers and fact sheets in eight languages (Armenian, Azerbaijani, English, Kyrgyz, Moldovan, Romanian, Russian and Turkish) and an additional 16 booklets in eight languages.