



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

SURINAME AND FAO

PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

Suriname and FAO have partnered since the country joined the Organization in 1975. Over the past decade, FAO technical assistance has spanned the agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry subsectors, primarily focusing on priorities laid down in Suriname's Agriculture Sector Plan. Suriname has made positive strides towards food security and, in 2014, the country was declared one of the top four Caribbean nations to have achieved the MDG target for hunger eradication.

Regional scope - country focus

The Suriname's priority areas are consistent with the CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Agriculture Policy, the OECS (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) Agriculture Policy and Strategic Plan, the Caribbean Regional Food and Nutrition Security, the CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Plan of Action, particularly the section on Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of which at least 14 out of the 17 are related to FAO's work. As for Suriname key areas, FAO's Regional Initiative (RI) 2: Family farming and inclusive food systems for sustainable rural development continues to be the most relevant RI for Suriname under the 2016-2019 CPF.



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Matching FAO's expertise to Suriname development priorities

FAO assistance in Suriname is shaped by the **2016-2019 Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, which is centred on four priority areas:

- ➔ **Food and Nutrition Security**, promoting healthy eating habits in schools and communities through the preparation of Food Based Dietary Guidelines and the dissemination of relevant information to local diet and eating patterns.
- ➔ **Food Safety, Quality and Certification systems**, complementing actions proposed in the Economic Partnership Agreement: Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.
- ➔ **Value Chain Development for Strengthening Food Systems**, assisting small-scale farmers and family farmers to increase production and productivity.
- ➔ **Natural Resource Management, Disaster Mitigation and Resilience**, disaster mitigation and resilience, developing disaster risk management plans for the agriculture sector.

Jointly developed with the Government and other development partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies. Caribbean countries, including Suriname, have developed a **United Nations Multi Country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF)** of assistance that will replace the **United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)** as a mechanism for the UN Country Team delivery. The Government of Suriname has also signaled its commitment to the SDGs through its continued work under the **United Nations Multi Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF)** and **Country Implementation Plan** modality.

Suriname and its fight against hunger

Suriname's national development strategy is articulated in its National Development Plan (2012–2016) and more recently during the inaugural speech of the President Desiré Bouterse after his re-election in July 2015. The plan lays out a set of priorities and actions to address economic, social and climatic vulnerabilities. It focuses on three main priorities: i) economic diversification through broad private sector development; ii) strengthening social services and

“Agriculture and food security are the entry points for growth and development strategies in many countries.”

FAO Director-General

iii) better management of disaster risks. The National Development Plan identifies agriculture, livestock farming, fisheries and forestry as one of the cornerstones of the country's diversified economy and the basis for prosperity and wellbeing.

The Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) Programme, an European Union-FAO facility for policy assistance, was launched mid-2015 to support governments with strengthening the enabling policy and institutional environment for food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

Under the FIRST Programme funded by the European Union, FAO was able to establish a monitoring platform that through monthly meetings reviewed multi-sectoral issues affecting Food and Nutrition Security in the country, which resulted in the completion of a country diagnostic on Food and Nutrition security.

FAO and the European Union signed a four-year value chain development and food safety project, called Suriname Market Access Project (SAMAP) in December 2017. The European Union funds this project through its allocation to the Suriname National Indicative Programme (NIP) under the 11th European Development Fund (2014-2020). The development vision is that by 2021, the project's contributions would impact 1 000 Suriname small-scale farmers (directly or through farmer groups), who, incrementally over the project period, will achieve increased sales and horticultural production matched to the demands and standards of export markets. The project will also contribute to the adoption of better domestic food safety standards. The Organization acts as the implementing partner on behalf of the project owner, the Government of the Republic of Suriname. The project's change theory assumes that small-scale producers can profit from entrepreneurship and/or business linkages to the food sector within Suriname and abroad.

Improving the aquatic animal health protection system

Fisheries is an important contributor to Suriname's economy, providing employment for 5 000 people and making a major contribution to local food requirements. Major efforts have been dedicated to the establishment of a competitive and ecologically sustainable fisheries sector, including freshwater fisheries and aquaculture. Suriname's marine waters and coastal areas are adversely affected by pollution, overfishing, and coastline degradation. A national aquaculture and aquatic animal health management strategy – compliant with international aquatic animal health standards – is therefore needed. To ensure responsible use of pesticides and fertilizers as one means of preventing coastal degradation, the aquaculture sector requires close surveillance as well as additional regulation.

Following earlier interventions, FAO is helping to build the capacities of national authorities for implementing effective aquatic animal health protection systems so that risks from aquatic animal diseases affecting aquaculture production are minimized. To date, a strategy and action plan for developing the aquaculture industry and as well as a strategy for aquatic health surveillance have been delivered. Training workshops have been delivered to aquatic animal health professionals in public as well as private services, covering topics such as aquatic health surveillance, ornamental fish production and health management. In addition, legislation has been drafted and the Aquaculture Development Law updated.

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