



## AN OVERVIEW OF THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

### Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)

The TCP was created to enable FAO, drawing from its own resources, to make its know-how and technical expertise available to member countries and respond to its constitutional function “to furnish technical assistance as governments may request”. The TCP may be used in all areas of action related to FAO’s mandate and competence that are covered by the Strategic Framework (SF), to respond to governments’ priority needs, catalyse change, foster capacity development and assist countries in mobilizing resources, usually as outlined in Country Programming Frameworks (CPF) agreed with governments at country level.

The TCP aims to provide FAO’s technical expertise to its Members through demand driven, targeted, short term, catalytic and sustainable projects. These projects address technical challenges in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural livelihoods. The TCP supports the achievements of results under the SF. It is aligned to the corporate policy, roles and responsibilities in relation to resource mobilization and the project cycle, and empowerment of decentralized offices.

At country level, TCP assistance contributes to country priorities as expressed in the Country Programming Framework (CPF). At subregional, regional and interregional levels, TCP assistance is aligned to the SF, regional priorities and/or initiatives as expressed in Regional Conferences, regional technical commissions, and other relevant political processes and agreements.

TCP projects may support development efforts or emergency assistance and early rehabilitation. TCP Projects have a budget of up to USD 500 000 and a maximum duration of up to 24 months.

### TCP appropriation

The TCP appropriation is approved by the FAO Conference in the context of the biennial Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) of the Organization. The Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation (ADG/TC), has the delegated responsibility from the Director-General of FAO for the corporate management and oversight of the TCP and for reporting to the governing bodies on the use of the appropriation. Responsibility for the management of the TCP allocations for national and subregional and regional development projects has been delegated to FAO Regional Representatives.

The FAO Conference decided that an indicative share of 82 percent of the TCP appropriation be allocated to FAO regions under the approval authority of the Assistant Director-General/Regional Representatives (ADG/RRs) for development projects while the remaining appropriation of 15 percent and 3 percent are retained respectively for emergency and interregional projects, under the approval authority of the ADG/TC.

The TCP Appropriation for the biennium 2014-15 amounted to 13.4 percent (i.e. USD 134.7 million) of the PWB Net Appropriation. The FAO Conference recommended (CR 8/89) that the TCP appropriation could represent 14 percent of the Organization’s PWB Net Appropriation.

### TCP transformation to support the SF

A comprehensive set of measures for the enhancement of the TCP, along with an implementation plan, to improve alignment to the SF and enhance the strategic use of TCP resources was endorsed by the FAO Council in December 2013. These measures led to the simplification of TCP management through the revision of the TCP manual, including the alignment of TCP procedures to the project cycle for trust fund projects. Policy, roles and responsibilities in relation to resource mobilization and the project cycle, aimed at enhancing the alignment of these functions to the implementation of FAO’s Strategic Framework and empowerment of decentralized offices were set out in the Director General Bulletin 2014/53.