

CL 163/5 - Information Note 1 – November 2019

Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)

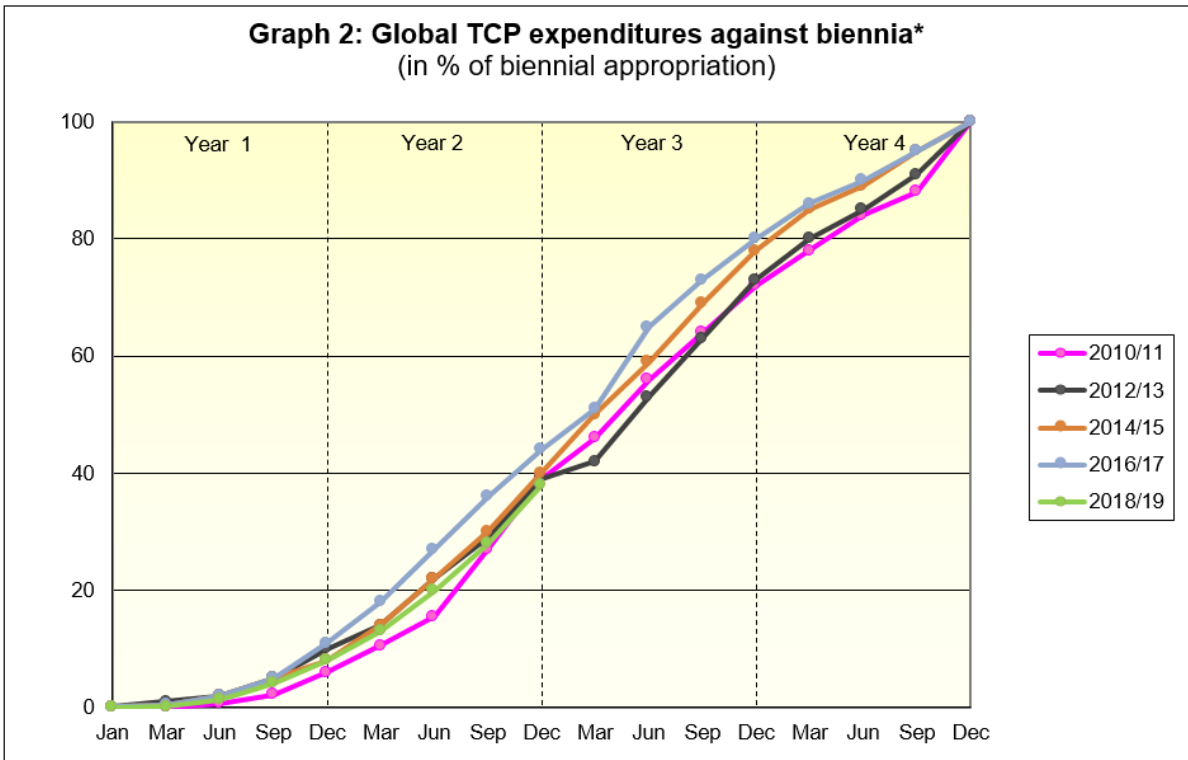
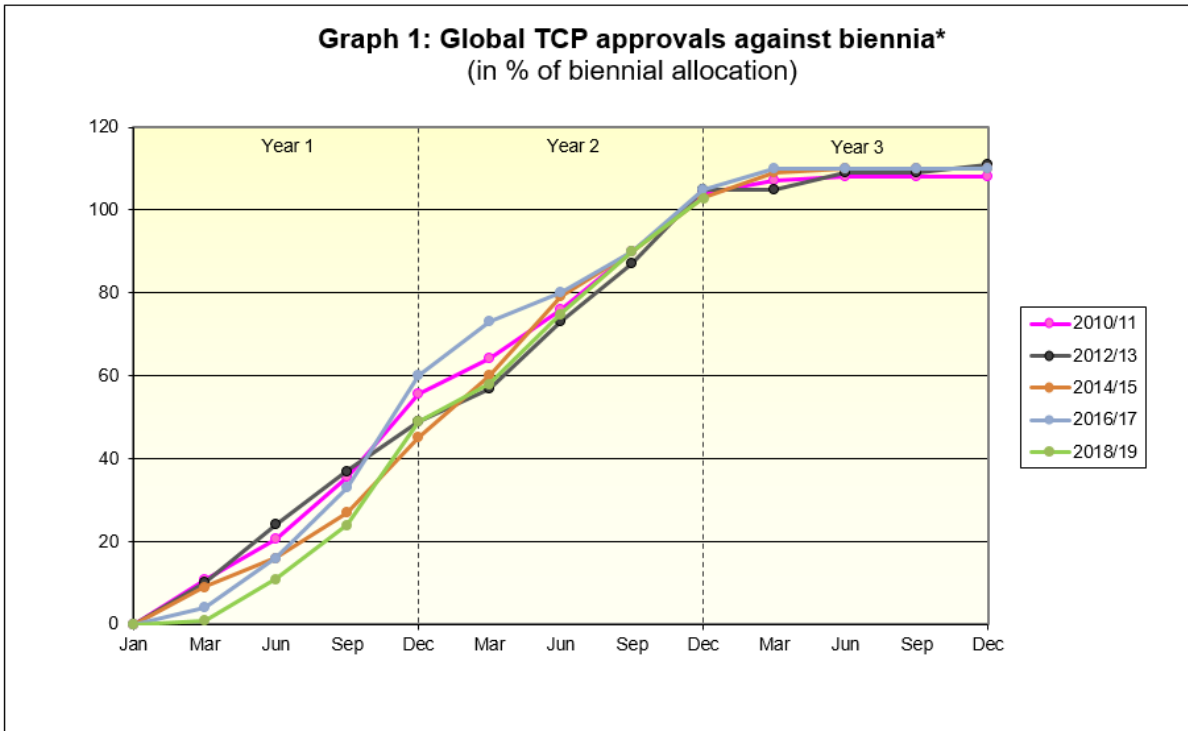
Review of TCP implementation

1. In September 2019, the Office of Evaluation (OED) launched the evaluation of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme. The finding of the evaluation will be presented for discussion at the 2020 autumn session of the Programme Committee.
2. In addition to that forthcoming more thorough evaluation, the TCP Report issued in November 2019 provides a comprehensive review of TCP projects that completed implementation in 2018. The report is a first attempt to capture the achievements of the TCP in an aggregated and systematic manner. It presents the achievements and catalytic role of TCP-funded projects and provides information on the characteristics, typical interventions and results of the Programme.
3. The report covers 304 TCP projects for a total value of USD 78.3 million. These projects directly benefited more than 400 000 people and their communities, delivered more than 7 600 technical products and, according to the latest information available¹, mobilized USD 244 million of additional resources, of which USD 99.2 million are being implemented through FAO. For the set of projects covered by the report, we have not only fully "recovered" the invested TCP resources, but also more than triplicated the investment.
4. The catalytic role of TCP is not limited to resource mobilization. Other catalytic effects include: improvements in farming systems that lead to their wider diffusion and adoption by farmers and the private sector; improved and strengthened institutional capacities; timeliness in bridging a critical gap (e.g. emergency response, mitigation, preparedness projects); policy, legal and regulatory changes that facilitate the development of the agricultural sector; and improved forms of collaboration at the regional and international levels. However, such outcomes are more difficult to quantify and aggregate in a meaningful and cost-effective manner for the around 750 projects we implement each biennium.
5. The Secretariat is exploring new ways of reporting and sharing information on TCP. This will include a redesigned Web site providing access to highlights and reports on all completed projects.

Picture 1: The TCP report (available from <http://www.fao.org/technical-cooperation-programme>)

¹ The Green Climate fund recently approved a USD 40 million project for Nepal, the formulation of which was supported with a TCP. Tunisia recently signed a Unilateral Trust Fund worth USD 9.6 million that was a direct outcome of a TCP. Both projects are part of the 2019 Report, but these results had not yet materialized upon completion of the report.





* data for December 2019 is estimated based on Tables 1 and 2 below

8. A further breakdown of the approval and expenditure status against the 2016/17 and 2018/19 biennia is presented in Tables 1 and 2 below. By the end of December 2019, the full approval of 2018/19 and full expenditure of the 2016/17 biennia are expected. The over-programming aims to ensure the full expenditure of the appropriation taking into account that the average expenditure rate of TCP projects has historically been around 90 percent of their approved budgets.

Table 1: Approval and expenditures against 2018/19 as of 20 November 2019

Type	Region	Allocation	Approval	Appr/Alloc	Expenditure	Exp/Alloc
Development Support	Africa	44 286 228	43 667 499	98.60%	14 137 633	31.92%
	Asia	27 171 737	27 110 818	99.78%	6 012 030	22.13%
	Europe	11 071 557	10 089 000	91.13%	2 815 664	25.43%
	Interregional	3 471 917	3 672 000	105.76%	987 232	28.43%
	Latin America	19 928 803	19 406 000	97.38%	8 215 352	41.22%
	Near East	9 057 246	9 719 182	107.31%	2 117 199	23.38%
Development Support (total)		114 987 488	113 664 499	98.85%	34 285 111	29.82%
Emergency Assistance	Africa		9 160 000		4 760 507	
	Asia		4 048 460		2 578 803	
	Europe		500 000		206 788	
	Latin America		3 000 000		1 430 184	
	Near East		2 650 540		1 489 816	
Emergency Assistance (total)		20 831 501	19 359 000	92.93%	10 466 098	50.24%
GRAND TOTAL		135 818 989	133 023 499	97.94%	44 751 208	32.95%

Table 2: Approval and expenditures against 2016/17 as of 20 November 2019

Type	Region	Allocation	Approval	Appr/Alloc	Expenditure	Exp/Alloc
Development Support	Africa	43 385 682	48 746 177	112.36%	44 218 566	101.92%
	Asia	26 030 916	27 999 661	107.56%	23 633 583	90.79%
	Europe	10 780 171	11 780 462	109.28%	9 834 547	91.23%
	Interregional	3 987 676	1 878 854	47.12%	1 418 206	35.56%
	Latin America	19 524 111	21 387 332	109.54%	20 127 292	103.09%
	Near East	9 439 642	10 118 704	107.19%	8 996 462	95.31%
Development Support (total)		113 148 198	121 911 189	107.74%	108 228 656	95.65%
Emergency Assistance	Africa		11 929 155		11 075 421	
	Asia		4 244 494		4 177 913	
	Europe		460 000		459 369	
	Latin America		2 855 483		2 693 947	
	Near East		3 130 858		3 051 106	
Emergency Assistance (total)		19 774 347	22 619 991	114.39%	21 457 757	108.51%
GRAND TOTAL		132 922 545	144 531 180	108.73%	129 686 413	97.57%

9. The Secretariat is fully committed to improve response times to requests and expedite approval and delivery of TCP resources. TCP policies and procedures have been substantially simplified in 2019. Going forward it is expected that these simplifications will result in an acceleration of TCP implementation.

10. At the national level, it will be important to ensure that the TCP continues to be used strategically, emphasizing its catalytic role, with government counterparts remaining in the driving

seat. By linking the TCP to major initiatives, we aim to multiply resources invested. The recently approved Green Climate Fund projects for Kyrgyzstan (USD30 million) and Nepal (USD 40 million) were formulated using TCP resources.

11. At regional and interregional levels, building on the expressed interests of beneficiary countries and using the TCP as seed money, there is an opportunity to induce investments in thematic areas/programmes with high potential to achieve major progress towards SDG targets, thereby further improving the efficiency and effectiveness of TCP assistance. For example, a recently approved regional AgrInvest project is supporting the creation of jobs for youth through private investment in agricultural value chains covering three countries in Africa.