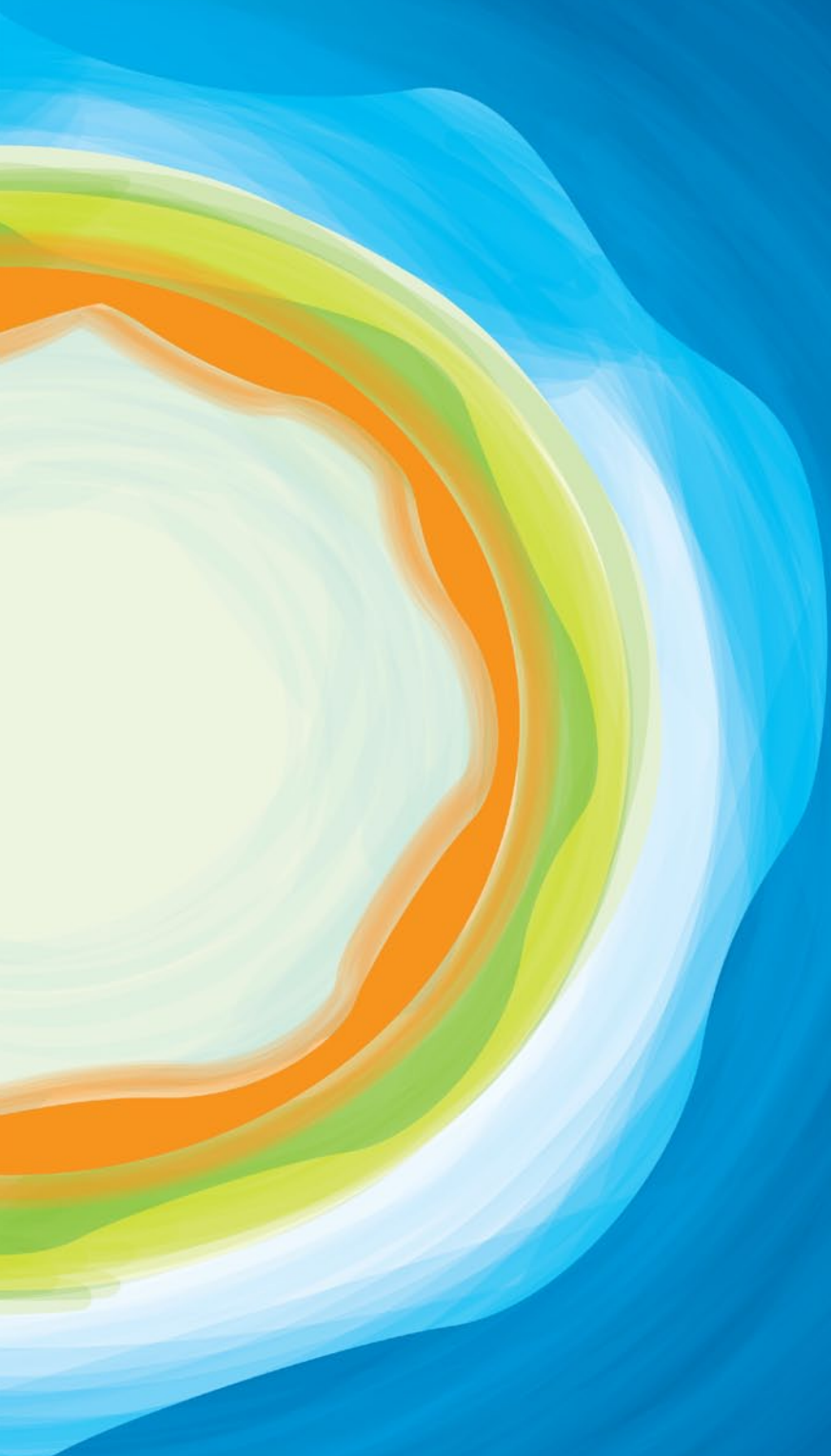


FAO ACTIVITIES IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FAO has a long history of partnership with Small Island Developing States (SIDS), providing policy advice, analysis and technical assistance in agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, natural resources management and food security in its commitment to support resilient livelihoods and enhance food security.



Regional Level Activities

REGIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

**Expenditures in the 2012-2013 biennium
for the Region: US\$ 27 121 000**

a. Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan

FAO's support to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has been extended through a Regional Technical Cooperation Project contributing to the development of a Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan. At the national level, Food and Nutrition Security Policies and Plans are currently being developed for nine Member States of the CARICOM Region (Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago), as well as Grenada and Barbados through a separate Technical Cooperation Project. This work has already been completed in Guyana and Belize.

b. Ridding the region of dangerous pesticides

Over the past five years, FAO has been supporting its members, as well as Cuba and the Dominican Republic, to participate in the Coordinating Group for Pesticide Control Boards of the Caribbean (CGPC). FAO's support has focused on pests and pesticide management including: safely disposing of obsolete pesticide stocks that have lingered in the region for up to 30 years; finding the safest methods for controlling pests in agriculture and homes; reducing risks from pesticides to the environment and the health of both local populations and tourists; and communicating with farmers, politicians and the general public about pesticide dangers and the positive actions that these groups can take to control pests.

c. Forestry: Partnering to improve participation

FAO and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) have collaborated on a publication—*Participating in managing forest: A guide to community forestry in the Caribbean Islands*—aimed at improving governance and influencing policy for community forestry and sustainable forest-based livelihoods. These guidelines were written to help community groups successfully communicate their needs and articulate their ideas about how the forests they depend on should be managed.

d. Commercialisation of Agriculture Programme

As part of its global work programme, FAO promotes Food Security through the Commercialisation of Agriculture (FSCA) programme in the Caribbean. This programme seeks to enhance the capacity of national stakeholders in the application of a market-oriented development approach based on value chain concepts, in order to improve farmers' income through improved links to markets. Consequently, the European Union (EU) agreed to continue to support the promotion of value chain type approaches in the CARICOM through an Intra-ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states) project in partnership with two regional organizations: the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research Institute (CARDI).

e. Implementation of Agricultural Disaster Risk Management Plans in the Caribbean

To strengthen community preparedness and resilience to natural disasters in the region, FAO launched a project to support the implementation of local disaster risk reduction plans in selected locations in Haiti, Dominican Republic and Jamaica. The initiative aims at increasing the resilience of farming and fishing communities through the implementation of location-specific best practices and technologies. The immediate priorities identified during the participatory assessment process were addressed through the community based plans implemented at pilot sites.

f. Plant health: Banana industry battles Black Sigatoka

Black Sigatoka Disease (BSD) has been a growing threat to the banana and plantain industries in the Caribbean for several years. FAO supported a project aimed at supplementing management efforts already in progress. An experienced Expert Consultant from Cuba was contracted and spent a week in each of the five countries for assessment and treatment training. Detailed manuals were then developed, which field and laboratory technicians are now using to more effectively support national BSD management programmes.

g. Managing Citrus Greening

The citrus industry is a major earner in several of the countries of the region. Since October 2009, it has been under threat from Citrus Huanglongbing (HLB) or Greening Disease. In a regional project spanning Central America and the Caribbean, FAO is providing technical support to Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Its aim is to arm country and subregional plant health organizations with fundamental technical tools and trained human resources to implement efficient and coordinated regional measures to respond to HLB.

REGIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES IN THE PACIFIC

**Expenditures in the 2012-2013 biennium
for the Region: US\$ 8 180 000**

a. Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood Programme

FAO, together with other UN and regional agencies, convened at the Pacific Food Summit in Vanuatu in response to a request for action on food security from Pacific leaders at the 39th Pacific Islands Forum. This was the culmination of a series of technical consultations and national food summits, leading to the development and adoption of a regional Framework for Action on Food Security in the Pacific.

This project focused on seven countries including Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The three major project outcomes include: a) strengthened national capacities for programme co-ordination, project planning, and monitoring & evaluation of projects addressing food security and sustainable livelihoods, b) an impetus for more intensive food security and sustainable livelihoods programmes in each country, achieved by building common understanding of the principles and issues and developing shared processes, and c) strengthened national capacity to develop a framework to assess relevance and priority of food security and sustainable livelihoods initiatives. Another important outcome of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) was to provide an impetus and start-up structure for improved food security and sustainable livelihoods programmes in each country, the intended output of which is to develop high quality proposals with quick funding expected as a result of hands-on training activities.

b. Conservation within protected areas

A recent development within FAO has been the provision of support to SIDS to access funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support conservation within protected areas, improve biodiversity, reduce land degradation and mitigate or adapt to climate change in productive landscapes. For example, FAO is currently implementing a US\$ 6 400 000 regional project in the Pacific Islands to promote forest conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in Fiji, Niue, Samoa and Vanuatu.

c. Strategies and capacity building in Pacific SIDS to address climate change impacts on jurisdictional claims

The goal of the project is to enhance understanding and recognition in the Pacific SIDS region of the full importance of the physical and jurisdictional implications of rising sea levels. The project will also directly lead to the development and endorsement of a Regional Strategy, in which policy and legal approaches and options for recognition and preservation of Pacific SIDS jurisdictional claims are presented, accompanied by a plan for ensuring global adoption of the strategy. The project is expected to provide impetus for early action by Pacific SIDS on the preservation of jurisdictional claims.

The ultimate impact of the project will be the continued validity of current maritime jurisdictional claims of Pacific SIDS at the local/regional level and therefore the preservation of the availability of the resources within the jurisdictional claims for exploitation and revenue generation. At the global level, the project will potentially clarify and fill in knowledge gaps in international law. This will ultimately contribute to achieving sustainable socio-economic development in the Pacific SIDS and to sustainable conservation and living resources management in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of the SIDS.

d. Assistance in the establishment of a Micronesian Network on Sustainable Aquaculture

The Micronesian group, the members of which are mostly in the North Pacific, often do not participate or benefit of regional projects. A Micronesia sub-regional network would allow these members to focus on their common needs while using the network as a platform for better participation in region-wide activities. Establishing a sub-regional intergovernmental aquaculture network in Micronesia will strengthen the collective capacities of the sub-region to sustainably develop the aquaculture and culture-based fishery sector for food security, rural development and wealth generation.

e. Assessing emerging needs in the coconut sector

FAO in collaboration with the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) conducted various country studies to assess the constraints and emerging needs of the coconut sector in the region. This culminated in a high-level expert consultation and a regional strategy which is also part of the effort to share experiences where domestic food markets, tourism markets and niche export markets have been successfully developed to the advantage of small farmers.

f. Promoting farming as a business

Since 2003, FAO has developed an innovative project design to promote farming as a business and to provide a much needed source of income for small farmers, with special attention to rural youth in the Pacific. This design was put into practice through numerous projects, with the common objective of creating awareness and capacity for using marketing and farm management concepts and methods, in Pacific Island countries. The approach introduced small farmers to the concepts of commercialization and "farming as a business" and has led to their wider acceptance and adoption in the region.

REGIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES IN THE AIMS (ATLANTIC, INDIAN OCEAN, MEDITERRANEAN, AND SOUTH CHINA SEA) REGION

Expenditures in the 2012-2013 biennium for the Region: US\$ 5 486 000

The Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS) is a group of countries that is not based on geography, therefore regional initiatives covering these island countries belong to different regional initiatives based on their respective locations (Southern Africa, West Africa and Asia).



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National Level Activities: Examples of Key Field Programmes and Projects

NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Zero Hunger Challenge: Antigua and Barbuda pilot leading the way

Antigua and Barbuda, in pursuit of its own ambitious hunger eradication goals, has taken up the Zero Hunger Challenge which was launched in June 2012 at the Rio+20 Conference. Pockets of undernutrition, with both stunting and wasting, have been reported in the child population in Antigua and Barbuda. In October 2012, representatives of FAO and IICA signed a Letter of Intention agreeing to cooperate with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to jointly design and implement a set of coordinated, coherent and effective actions to achieve zero hunger in two years. Since the end of the initial assessment period in November 2012, two programmes were identified for priority action: a home-based garden initiative and a School Feeding programme.

BAHAMAS

Forest management pilot and training in Abaco

The natural pine forests of The Bahamas are an untapped and important natural resource. Production and use of timber resources would not only make the Bahamas less dependent on imports, it would also retain financial resources in the country and create job opportunities. The Ministry of the Environment sees the development of the forestry sector as a priority for the country. Relevant legislation has been enacted, and administrative arrangements and financial commitment put in place to implement a forest management

programme. FAO is implementing a Technical Cooperation Project on the island of Abaco to pilot a sustainable management programme for the approximately 180 000 hectares of natural pine forests. The project is building the capacity of the trust's field staff to effectively manage and monitor forest field operations, which will include sustainable logging practices.

BARBADOS

Development of manuals for quarantine inspection

For the first time in its history Barbados has its very own national Plant Quarantine Manual and Standard Operation Procedure. The manual was developed in conjunction with the training of 24 personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture over the course of three workshops. A sensitization seminar was held for a wide range of stakeholders including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Customs and Excise, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, National Conservation Commission and the private sector.

BELIZE

Guardians of the forest

The Chiquibul Forest of Belize is comprised of three protected areas, which together cover 7.7 percent of the country's land mass. This is Belize's most prized forest due to its size and rich reservoir of natural and cultural resources. However the area is under threat primarily due to illegal logging and illegal gold panning. FAO has been supporting a local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), Friends for Conservation and Development, through a programme with the main objective of assessing the illegal logging situation. The assessment will include both an economic and ecological valuation, which has been distributed to several institutions and agencies; deployment of five rangers and a park

manager specifically to address the illegal logging activity across the Chiquibul Forest; equipment purchase; training on Forest Law Application and Enforcement for the Belize Defence Force (BDF) and Police personnel and leading of public awareness activities including site visits with local community leaders.

CUBA

Hurricane recovery

Hurricanes Gustav and Ike severely affected several provinces in Cuba, causing a sharp decrease in levels of food production and availability and leading to food vulnerability. FAO assisted by providing supplies and equipment to restore food production capabilities in the livestock and fisheries sectors in the provinces of Camaguey, Holguin, Las Tunas and Pinar del Rio and tilapia production in the municipality of Isla de la Juventud. FAO also provided training and investigated new technologies in line with the principle of “building back better”.

DOMINICA

Growing organic farming

Dominica is currently known as the Nature Isle, but has made it a stated intention to also lay claim to the title, the Organic Island. FAO is helping the country to move closer to that goal by assisting the Dominica Organic Agricultural Movement (DOAM), an NGO formed by a cross section of farmers and traders in the organic food production industry. DOAM coordinates programs and activities for the development of the local organic industry and ensures that foods grown under certifiable organic conditions are marketed effectively and efficiently locally, regionally and internationally. FAO assistance will help to create a Plan of Action to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for DOAM, taking into account the local environment and the relevant experiences and best practices of other organic movements in the Caribbean.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Increased productivity and market access for dairy farmers

There are several reasons why CONALECHE (Consejo Nacional para la Reglamentación y Fomento de la Industria Lechera) has struggled to develop, implement and validate a model for the

development of family dairy sector, including lack of technical capacities, lack of institutional capacities and/or resources, among others. FAO is providing technical support to strengthen the capacity of CONALECHE to develop, implement, and validate a model to increase productivity in the country's family dairy sector. By using technologies adapted specifically for small producers in the tropics, as well as properly implementing the rules and regulations, the family dairy sector can significantly increase its level of productivity.

GRENADA

Equipping the abattoir

The Government of Grenada, with funding from the Caribbean Development Bank, is building an abattoir as part of a redevelopment programme for the town of Grenville. The abattoir has been built on the grounds of the School for Agriculture and is expected have the capacity to slaughter up to 55 small and large ruminants each day. It was designed according to FAO Guidelines for the construction of small abattoirs. FAO has also provided equipment and assisted with the tendering process. FAO's assistance contributes to the sustainable production of meat which meets the highest international standards and can also be sold in the domestic market for consumption by locals and tourists alike. With the development of this market, more producers will be encouraged to intensify their livestock operations, contributing to an eventual reduction in imported meat and meat products.

GUYANA

National Agriculture Market Information System

In an effort to enhance the capacity of the country to collect, manage and access agricultural market data and information, FAO has been providing technical assistance to develop a comprehensive Agriculture Market Information System. This system is aimed at improving domestic and regional trade in agricultural commodities and enhancing the lives of rural populations. Achievements thus far include a website showcasing the work and services provided by Guyana Marketing Corporation, as well as enhanced staff capacity within the Ministry of Agriculture to implement a crop production data collection system to allow for better crop forecasting and production planning.

HAITI

Road to recovery

The FAO Programme has contributed significantly to the reduction of food insecurity levels by rebuilding the irrigation systems and access roads, reinforcing the banks of rivers and streams, and re-launching activities associated with watershed management, particularly tree-planting, in order to prevent flooding. These activities were financed through a multitude of donors and implemented with a several partners including Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), NGOs, and sister UN Agencies. More recently, the emphasis of FAO's programme has shifted towards development operations.

The Haiti Resilience Initiative was developed for the 2014/15 biennium, to increase resilience of family farmers, contribute to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and reduce rural poverty. Particularly significant is the Government's request for FAO assistance in support of its Agricultural Recovery Plan. In November 2013, FAO convened a Regional Technical Meeting (in Panama) with South-South Cooperation partner countries to garner increased support for the Agricultural Recovery Plan. This set the stage for much stronger coordination between countries in the region providing assistance to Haiti.

JAMAICA

Beating back Beet Armyworm

FAO provided technical support to assist the Government to respond to repeated outbreaks of the Beet Armyworm, which threatens to destroy the livelihood of small vegetable farmers in the southern part of the country, as well as erase productive gains in the cultivation of onions. The project, which began in December 2012, is ongoing and will help to establish a comprehensive monitoring and forecasting programme using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. Additionally, to support a Farmer Field School (FFS) approach to on-farm crop and pest management, 20 extension officers and ten farmers are currently receiving intensive training in FFS methodologies and crop management techniques. The trained extension officers and farmers will then train approximately 150 other farmers.

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Promoting fishing cooperatives

Though most fisheries in Saint Kitts and Nevis are artisanal, they make an important contribution to food security in the country. Around 460 small-scale fishing vessels make up the fishing industry. 2 000 fisherfolk represent 14 percent of those employed on the islands. Local catches contribute 500 tonnes of fish for local consumption. The Government is aiming to transform the industry through improved technology to increase fisheries production. FAO is helping to strengthen fisherfolk organizations on the islands, as they need to be organized if they are to be equal partners with the Ministry, in addition to co-managing the sector and implementing the ecosystem approach to fisheries. Strong fisherfolk organizations could also take a leading role in the efforts to reduce praedial larceny of fish and fisheries gear and equipment.

SAINT LUCIA

Modernizing meat production

The Government of Saint Lucia is constructing a modern slaughterhouse/meat processing facility. It will enhance food safety, build consumer confidence in meat and meat products, stimulate livestock production and help locally produced meats to reach high-end market segments, including the lucrative tourist industry, which currently imports all of its meats and meat products. FAO is assisting the country through the development of general operating and management plans for the operation of the slaughter house/meat processing facility.

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Reviving traditional bamboo craft

Georgetown, on the Northeast coast of St. Vincent, has lost its traditional sources of income following the closure of the local sugar factory and the decline of banana production. Decades ago the people of Georgetown were well known for their skills in using bamboo to build baskets and other household items. With the increased use of plastic the tradition of bamboo weaving was almost lost. The Georgetown Craft Makers Association decided to try to revive

traditional bamboo craft to generate income opportunities for local youth. With the assistance of FAO, the community group registered as a non-profit organisation and employed two local trainers and a facilitator.

SURINAME

Planning agriculture for the future

FAO assisted the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries in formulating seven Agriculture Subsector White Papers on rice, bananas, horticulture (vegetable, fruit, root crops), livestock, fisheries, interior development and agribusiness to support the Government in achieving food security targets. A National Stakeholder Consultative Exercise has been completed and the Ministry is utilizing the subsector documents in various national planning exercises.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Strengthening agricultural data and information

An important aspect of agriculture sector development and food security is the ability to collect and review information and to use the data to develop future strategies. The current national agricultural information system in Trinidad and Tobago has a number of weaknesses that ultimately limit its usefulness. FAO is assisting the Government by helping to develop a one-year plan to establish a National Agricultural Data and Information Division, operational guidelines for the division's systems, processes, programme planning and protocols, as well as a Strategic Plan and Work Programme for 2012-2014 for the division.

NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES IN THE PACIFIC

COOK ISLANDS

Enhance horticultural crop production and improve soil resources management

Present annual agricultural commodities export value is very minimal at around NZ\$ 800 000 while annual imports of fresh fruits and vegetables are valued at close to NZ\$ 3 000 000. For the past 20-25 years, following increased fresh produce demands mainly due to increased visitor influx into the country, farming saw a shift towards a part-time activity. FAO is enhancing the capacity of commercial agricultural production in the southern islands by providing the necessary inputs such as fertilisers, spray chemicals, seeds, planting materials. It also supports capacity building programmes to strengthen farmers' knowledge and skills on sustainable/modern commercial agricultural production and management practices. The objective is to improve small farm households' livelihoods in the Cook Islands with increased local production of fruit, vegetables and ornamentals in order to reduce food imports.

FIJI

The recovery of agriculture livelihood systems following Cyclone Evan

An estimated 54 000 farmers were directly affected and some 200 000 farmers were indirectly affected in the locations devastated by cyclone Evan. FAO is supporting the Government to re-establish agriculture production in the cyclone-affected areas and rebuild agriculture livelihoods by strengthening the resilience and self-reliance of affected people and rural communities. FAO will provide planting materials for root crops, fertilizer and chemicals to boost low food crop production, and vegetable seeds for quick income and improved nutrition. In addition, FAO will prepare an assessment tool for the agricultural sector to be used in times of emergency.

KIRIBATI

Strengthened statistical capacity to collect and analyze food and agricultural data

Agriculture and fisheries constitute the mainstay of the everyday life of the people in Kiribati. Effective planning, policy formulation and monitoring require quality and timely food security and nutrition information for evidence based strategies and actions. The Government clearly recognizes the need for reliable and consistent information and is in the process of establishing dedicated staff and computer resources to collect, store, manage and analyse agricultural and food data. Nonetheless, there is still limited capacity to process and analyse the collected data meaningfully as a basis for policy formulation and monitoring. FAO is providing technical support to collate, systematize and analyze the available food and agriculture data as a precursor for a national food security policy framework. The project will help the government gain a better understanding of the status of food security and nutrition in order to formulate appropriate policy options as a next step.

MARSHALL ISLANDS

Development of a food security and nutrition policy

The Marshall Islands lack an evidence-based Food Security and Nutrition Policy to provide a basis for coordinated and focused planning. Following the spike in global food prices, the Government requested FAO's technical support to assess the food supply vulnerability and prepare a policy to address food insecurity. The formulation of the Food Security and Nutrition Policy provides a multidisciplinary strategy and operational workplan to improve food security and strategically address priorities identified in light of the country's limited and potentially decreasing financial and technical resources.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Policy action planning for improved food security

This project will provide a clear set of policy recommendations and a timeframe for increasing supply of local foods to the domestic and tourism markets. In coordination with the Government, the

project staff will develop and execute an action plan to ensure the transfer of technical skills. In addition, an action plan review group will be established to review the draft plan and ensure local ownership of the process. It is expected that the project will improve the capacity of Ministry staff members, as well as providing Government with a clear plan for introducing the policies necessary to improve opportunities for local food production fish and vegetables. Relative to imports, this increased local production would help to improve food security and nutrition rates. The use of taxation to introduce pricing signals to discourage the consumption of unhealthy food, coupled with additional investment in improving the price competitiveness of local agricultural production will also be assessed.

NAURU

Increased agriculture production policy review

The Government of Nauru has requested FAO assistance to increase its crop and livestock production and productivity in order to improve food security and livelihoods of its population. There is scant information on past and current efforts to increase agricultural production in the country, and what the most appropriate strategies might be for such effort. A study will be needed to review past and current agricultural policy, development plans and sector strategic plans relating to agriculture development. It should also assess impacts of past efforts at agriculture development and, if necessary, draft appropriate proposals for increased agriculture production in Nauru.

NIUE

Agricultural curriculum in Niuean schools

FAO is providing technical support and expertise to close the knowledge gap and improve the agricultural curriculum in schools in order to educate and prepare agricultural workers. This project will provide an analysis of the current situation and proposals to improve the agricultural curriculum. The proposal for future actions will include: the nature of the inputs required, the most logical provider of those inputs, the duration of any support, an estimate of the quantitative and qualitative changes that might be expected, and pathways for the

young people to obtain further vocational training in agriculture. Finally, possible sources of finance and in-kind support will be identified.

PALAU

Giant clam farms development

FAO is supporting the Government in promoting giant clam farm development to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Giant clam farms will conserve the coastal and inshore resources by providing a supplementary source of income and subsistence to the men and women in the community. Furthermore, the project continuity is important in order to meet the demands for seafood by the local population and the influx of eighty thousand tourists visiting Palau annually. A measureable objective is to supply at least 20 clam farmers with protective clam cages or pen enclosures to improve protection from predators and poaching, and to improve clam inventory procedures. A second objective is to conduct site surveys for new farmers to establish their farms in the best possible areas. This will require locating areas with the right physical and biological characteristics for the farms.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Promoting sustainable forest management by developing effective systems of forest planning, monitoring and control

Papua New Guinea is host to a remarkably diverse number of species and ecosystems. The islands of New Guinea comprise the third largest tropical rainforest estate in the world. Increasingly, the sustainable capacity of much of the country's forests to support the products, services, biodiversity and ecological integrity they produce has come under threat. FAO has been requested to provide support in reversing the trend of forest degradation, which requires robust institutional capacity to appropriately ensure sustainable forest management. The project seeks to build the capacity of the national forest agency by strengthening the Logging Code of Practice and providing training to relevant Government staff and forest industry operators on improved forest practice guidelines, monitoring and enforcement.

SAMOA

Review and revise the Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries Ordinance

FAO's technical support is designed to identify and address gaps and constraints in food and agriculture (including fisheries) governance frameworks. The specific objective of this project is to review and revise the Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries Ordinance of 1959 with a view to produce a modern and comprehensive draft legal framework that will support Samoa's food and nutrition security and national development goals.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Integrated forest management

This project aims to improve the management of forests in the Solomon Islands by integrating biodiversity conservation, land degradation, sustainable forest management and climate change issues into policymaking at the national level, as well as livelihood activities for local communities living in and around forests. It includes activities targeted at existing and new protected areas that will be the focus of the project, as well as capacity building and institutional development at the national level.

TIMOR-LESTE

Zero-Hunger Challenge

FAO provided technical assistance to support family agriculture and aquaculture development in strengthening food and nutrition security through the promotion of conservation agriculture and other measures to adapt to climate change. Additionally, FAO assisted in raising awareness and capacity building to reduce post-harvest losses in horticultural chains; in formulation of a project to promote "climate smart agriculture" for disaster risk reduction and food security; in identifying and developing practices to adapt to climate change in the fisheries and aquaculture sector; and in the implementation of a project for the development of the coconut industry as a source of livelihood for the rural sector.



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TONGA

Development of Community-based milkfish farming in Nomuka Island and Tonga'tapu

FAO is providing technical assistance for the development of commercially viable and environmentally-friendly milkfish aquaculture systems in Nomuka Island and Tonga'tapu Island that will result in a sustainable source of food and income for the island communities. The immediate objectives of the project are to: demonstrate the commercial viability of milkfish pens and pond farming systems; develop cost-effective technologies and techniques for input production and supply (seed production and farm-made feed production); grow-out management, post harvest and marketing; utilize local manpower to produce continuous harvests of milkfish for the communities; and to train interested community members in the management and operations of milkfish pens and pond culture systems.

TUVALU

Development of community-based aquaculture system and management of inshore fisheries

This project will support the development of small-scale aquaculture by up-skilling traditional aqua-farmer's knowledge, providing new fishing

techniques, attracting offshore fisheries resources, and managing inshore/offshore fisheries resources for food security and sustainable livelihoods in Tuvalu.

VANUATU

Enhancing capacity in vegetable production

Compared to other countries like Fiji and Tonga, Vanuatu is lagging in terms of vegetable production and the necessary networks to support marketing and trade of these crops. While a large range of vegetable varieties are indigenous and can be grown in the local conditions, production is usually concentrated on a narrow range of varieties. The Government of Vanuatu has requested FAO's technical assistance in strengthening rural farmers' knowledge through training/up-skilling to narrow this knowledge gap in vegetable production for rural farmers in Vanuatu. The project will set up on-farm demonstration trials, on-site training on seed selection/quality/open pollination varieties, etc. The project will also collaborate with other stakeholders such as different government agencies, the private sector and NGOs.

NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES IN THE ATLANTIC, INDIAN OCEAN, MEDITERRANEAN, AND SOUTH CHINA SEA (AIMS)

CABO VERDE

Agro-value chain development in rural Cabo Verde

The aim of this project is to reduce rural poverty levels by increasing and maximizing employment opportunities in rural areas and establishing a stronger economic base to sustain current rural livelihood systems with a focus on agriculture, livestock and fisheries. This will be achieved by expanding the rural productive base and creating functional market linkages, thus offering local agro-producers broader access to the domestic market (e.g. integration into eco-tourism initiatives and access to the quality niche market of fresh produce for the tourism sector).

COMOROS

Support the sustainability of peace by promoting youth employment in Comoros.

FAO's contribution focuses on providing its expertise for the recovery and revitalization of the agricultural and rural sector. It will assist in creating stable and remunerative employment for rural people in order to increase income and improve food security. In addition, the project will have a specific strategy for promoting efficient agricultural production and ensuring food security, as well as supporting the emergence of small and medium-sized agricultural production units.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Support to promotion and sustainable management of small scale fisheries products

The Government considers the fisheries sector a priority. Its sustainable development will create jobs, support a high-growth economic sector and increase exports and foreign exchange inflows. As a result, the Government of Guinea Bissau (State Secretary for Fisheries) requests technical

assistance from FAO for strengthening institutional and technical capacities of the actors involved, both public and small private operators. Capacity development in communities is a key element for the increased involvement of the local population in the sustainable and fair management of fisheries.

In particular the project will be comprised of components dealing with:

- (i) The reinforcement of women and fishermen organisations to ensure higher negotiation power in the supply chain
- (ii) Innovative promotion and commercialization of local products thanks to simple, appropriate, inexpensive and accessible technologies
- (iii) Increased protection of local products and the ecosystem
- (iv) Gender equity in access to productive resources and participation in decision-making processes at the institutional level

MALDIVES

Support for the development of a domestic egg industry in the Maldives

The Maldives relies on imports for approximately 96 percent of its egg requirements. The overall goal of the project is to establish a commercially viable and environmentally sound domestic egg sector that sustainably increases family incomes and improves household food security. More specifically, the project aims to build technical, managerial and policy capacity to overcome critical gaps in the ability to develop sustainable egg production models in the island communities in Maldives.

MAURITIUS

Support for reorganization and strengthening capacities of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security of Mauritius

Mauritius's agriculture development plan needs to be reorganized and bolstered so it can build capacity to fulfil the government's objectives for agricultural development and food security. The project will reinforce the government's plan to modernise the agricultural sector and to "reconvert it into a flourishing pillar of the economy which will allow the whole of the population to draw benefits



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there from". The project will promote farmer participation in its analyses, in identifying solutions for conditions, and in performance improvements for their production systems.

SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE

Support for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention in Sao Tome

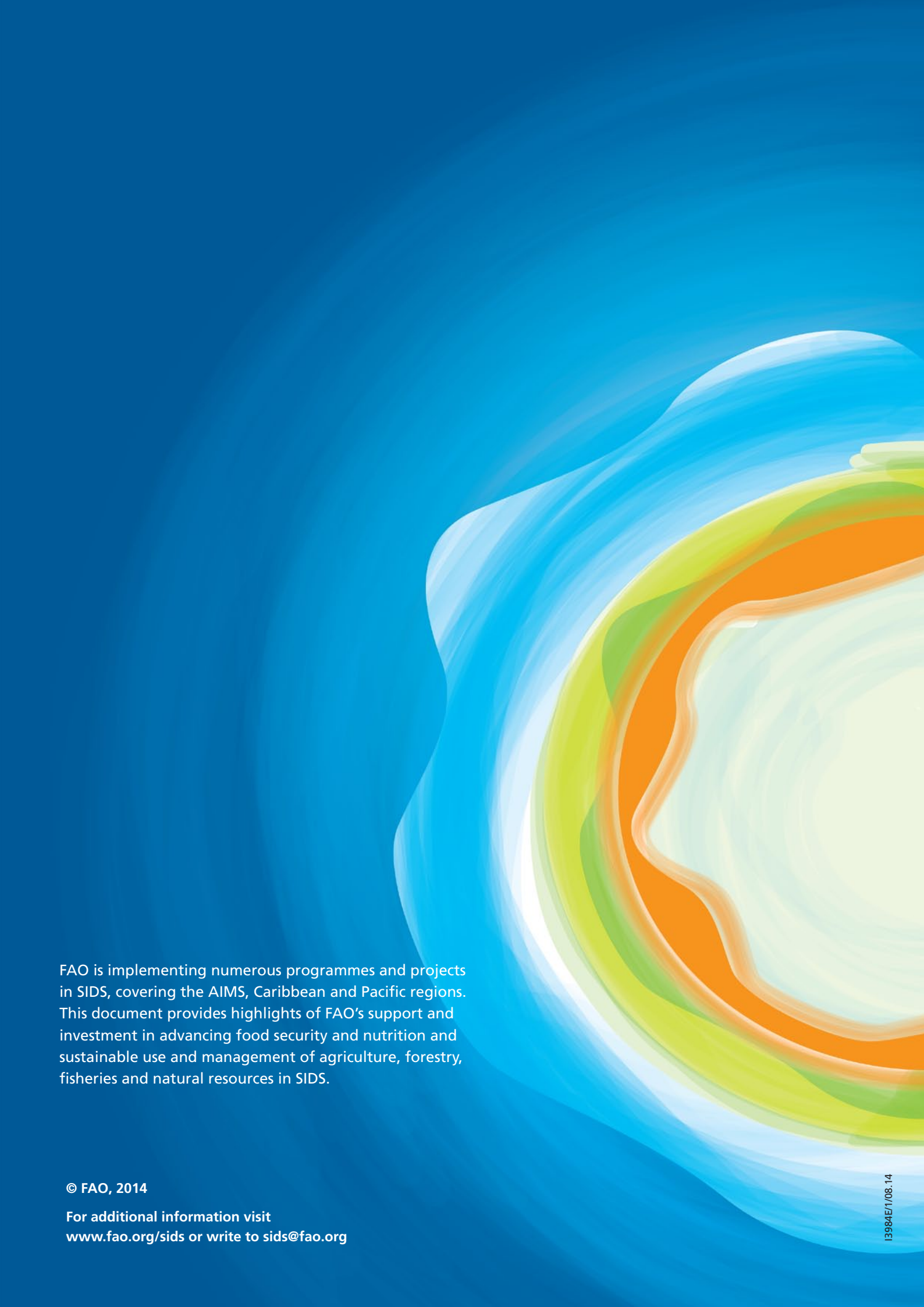
In 2013, Sao Tome and Principe joined the Rotterdam Convention. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has sent a request to support the initiation of the activities of the Convention in Sao Tome and Principe.

The overall objective of this project is to initiate a proper implementation of the Rotterdam Convention in the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. The activities include training the actors involved in the management of chemicals based on the requirements of the Rotterdam Convention, the inventory and localization of pesticides and other obsolete chemicals, and carrying out a survey on the effects of pesticides on human health and environment.

SEYCHELLES

Strengthening the governance framework and capacity of agricultural institutions in Seychelles

The objective is to conduct an institutional assessment in order to strengthen the capacity of the agricultural sector to mitigate the negative impact of the reform and enhance food and nutrition security in Seychelles. Within this general scenario, the role of agricultural institutions and Ministry of Natural Resources and Industry is revisited with a focus on food security and agricultural policies, provision of rules and regulation, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building, contribution to technical backstopping and the sustainability of agricultural growth.



FAO is implementing numerous programmes and projects in SIDS, covering the AIMS, Caribbean and Pacific regions. This document provides highlights of FAO's support and investment in advancing food security and nutrition and sustainable use and management of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and natural resources in SIDS.

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