



Papua New Guinea and FAO

Partnering for sustainable agricultural development and food security

Papua New Guinea joined the Organization in 1975 and cooperation was strengthened with the opening of a country office in 2013. FAO assistance has aimed at achieving food security through environmentally sustainable local food production. Recent interventions have focused on strengthening policy and planning, including the development of a National Agriculture Development Plan. As a small island developing state (SIDS), adaptation to climate change and disaster risk management are important features of cooperation.

Ensuring food security through policy support

In partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Livestock and other relevant government agencies, FAO has also undertaken activities to review and renew Papua New Guinea's National Food Security Policy for the next ten years. The process involved facilitating multi-stakeholder consultations to formulate the new policy and ensuring that relevant government agencies provided inputs. Activities also included the strengthening of coordination and linkages with other relevant policy processes being undertaken in the country.

As a result of this process, a new ten year National Food Security Policy Framework and a National Level Action Plan were developed. The Policy has also been rolled out in three pilot provinces, and provincial-level food security plans have been drafted for the pilot provinces.

Promotion of E-Agriculture

Through regional and country TCP projects, and in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), FAO is supporting the Government of PNG to integrate the use of ICT in its agricultural development plans and strategies. In this context, FAO has supported the Government in preparing its National E-Agriculture Strategy, and is planning to pilot the priority ICT solutions identified under the Strategy in selected pilot provinces.

Matching FAO's expertise to Papua New Guinea's development priorities

FAO assistance in Papua New Guinea is shaped by the 2018-2022 Country Programming Framework (CPF), which is centred on three priority areas:

- **Enhancing equitable, productive and sustainable natural resource management**, through improved capacity to monitor, plan and manage forests and trees sustainably; harvesting of wildlife species using improved customary and sustainable management; and effective measures to deter and reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU).
- **Strengthening resilience for food security and nutrition**, through strengthened decision-making processes to promote the resilience of food systems and by ensuring food and nutrition security; improved planning and delivery of food security support services; and greater gender equality and women's empowerment in agriculture to enhance child nutrition and family food security.
- **Sustainable and inclusive economic development and job creation in rural areas**, ensuring an increase in income, employment and food security in the area of the intervention, as well as the establishment of a strong and efficient agricultural and fisheries value chain.

Jointly developed with the Government and other partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development strategies and policies. The CPF is fully aligned with the UN Development Assistance Framework for Papua New Guinea.

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Developing effective systems for sustainable forest management

Papua New Guinea is host to a remarkably diverse number of species and ecosystems, comprising the third largest tropical rainforest estate in the world.

“Papua New Guinea has untapped potential in terms of further promoting its agricultural development.”

FAO Director-General

The majority of the population lives in traditional societies which are heavily dependent on forest resources as a source of nutrition, medicine and livelihoods.

Increasingly, the sustainable capacity of these forests has come under threat, largely owing to

deforestation, conversion to farmland and logging-related degradation.

In efforts to improve forest harvesting practices and limit forest degradation, FAO has partnered with the National Forestry Authority to provide technical support for the revision and upgrading of the Logging Code of Practice (LCOP), Planning, Monitoring and Control (PMC) procedures, training programmes and a code implementation system.

Additionally, a National Forestry Monitoring System was established thanks to FAO’s technical assistance to the Forest Authority and the Office for Climate Change and Development. A Satellite Land Monitoring System laboratory was set up, and relevant operators have been trained. Assessment tools were introduced to enhance the capacity of the Forest Authority to conduct annual national forest monitoring, and a web portal was launched to provide REDD+ information to the public. Such information, together with data from previous studies, was used to establish the Forest Reference Level (FRL) for REDD+.

FAO has also been supporting the National Forestry Authority in conducting the country’s first multi-purpose National Forest Inventory to estimate greenhouse gas emissions in land use and land use change and forestry. Methodologies for the Inventory were developed, tested and documented and technical training was provided. Field assessments have already been carried out in selected provinces and the initial findings from the Inventory were presented at a Research Conference.

Support for emergency coordination and recovery

FAO has been supporting the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) and other relevant partners to prepare for and respond to the impacts of natural disasters on agriculture, through its support to sectoral coordination on emergency response and recovery. In partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), a food security cluster has been established in Papua New Guinea for the first time, and the cluster has been supporting DAL and relevant partners in coordinating agricultural relief and recovery activities following the onset of natural disasters.

Supporting sustainable fisheries management

Papua New Guinea has an extensive and valuable fisheries sector with largely unpolluted coastal waters, high-elevation lakes and streams, and over 200 miles of declared fishing zone. Around 18 percent of the world’s total tuna stock is found in Papua New Guinea’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

In partnership with the National Fisheries Authority and provincial authorities, FAO implemented a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project for the development of a community-based aquaculture farm. Located in the province of Manus, the project helped selected communities to develop commercially viable and environmentally friendly mullet fish farming systems.

Moreover, the Organization implemented a TCP project to assist the National Fisheries Authority in minimizing opportunities for Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in Papua New Guinea. FAO will continue to support the Government to strengthen its legislative and governance framework to minimize IUU fishing as well as to facilitate Papua New Guinea’s accession to the Port State Measures Agreement.

Country gender assessment

FAO is also supporting the Government of Papua New Guinea to conduct a country gender assessment and gender analysis of the national agriculture and rural development sector. The assessment will deliver a set of policy recommendations on how to improve gender equality, promotion and mainstreaming in the agricultural and rural development sector.

Support to improve agricultural statistical capacity

Activities have been initiated under the global strategy project and country TCP project to improve agricultural and rural statistics. A country assessment has been conducted, and a long-term strategy will be developed to strengthen agricultural statistical capacity. Pilot activities are also being planned to improve the analysis and management of agricultural data.

