



1951-2011

Nepal-FAO Cooperation
For a World Without Hunger





Photo courtesy: LI-BIRD

Introduction

Nepal became a member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on 21 November 1951. Since that time Nepal and FAO have been cooperating to progress agricultural output and rural development in the country.

FAO was the first among the different United Nations agencies to commence field work in Nepal, focusing initially on agriculture and water resources development.

The Nepal FAO office works with the following mandate:

- 🍷 Put information within reach
- 🍷 Share policy expertise
- 🍷 Bring knowledge to the field



The achievement of 60 years of cooperation is an opportune moment to reflect upon the successes achieved over those years while at the same time reaffirming our commitment and enthusiasm to maintain the momentum into the future.

During these 60 years almost 300 projects have been implemented by the Organization, embracing a broad range of programmes aimed at agricultural and rural development.

In the course of project implementation, many notable firsts and major successes have been recorded. The projects and programmes have covered:

- 🍅 food and nutrition security
- 🍅 agricultural policy and regulations
- 🍅 agricultural planning and statistics
- 🍅 horticulture development
- 🍅 Institutional capacity enhancement
- 🍅 human resources development
- 🍅 sustainable livelihoods
- 🍅 gender/social inclusion
- 🍅 migration and agriculture





- 🍷 crop diversification
- 🍷 commercial vegetable and vegetable seed production
- 🍷 medicinal and aromatic plants
- 🍷 integrated pest management
- 🍷 dairy production and diversification
- 🍷 feed/fodder/pasture management
- 🍷 technology generation and dissemination
- 🍷 on-farm and off-farm employment
- 🍷 animal/trans-boundary disease prevention and control
- 🍷 crop and livestock productivity enhancement (including animal breed improvement)
- 🍷 water management for agriculture
- 🍷 aquaculture
- 🍷 agrimarketing, post-harvest management and trade
- 🍷 food quality control
- 🍷 community and leasehold forestry management
- 🍷 spices development and processing
- 🍷 disaster risk management
- 🍷 emergency assistance to food insecure and disaster-affected farmers
- 🍷 climate change and adaptation



SIX decades of achievement



Dairy

Results obtained in the dairy sector undoubtedly rank amongst the finest accomplishments: shortly after Nepal became a member of the Organization, FAO provided an expert to assist the government in establishing cheese making plants in Langtang and Thodung. This marked the beginning of Nepal-FAO cooperation at field level.

Today, Nepal can count on more than a dozen cheese making plants in remote hilly areas, adding value to milk production which would not otherwise be able to be marketed. FAO implemented projects have also made significant contributions to the promotion and marketing of dairy products in general. Other programmes have targeted genetic improvement of dairy cattle as well as the smallholder dairy sector and technologies to ensure safe dairy production.

Aquaculture

The generation of food and income from aquaculture is another area in which the country has made great strides with FAO cooperation.

FAO initially provided training and technical expertise to determine the feasibility of inland warm-water aquaculture. As with dairy, the fish industry was a largely untapped market for Nepal at the time. Nepal has now expanded these initial efforts and set up large-scale national programmes.

FAO continues to provide information and expertise to help modernise and improve aquaculture in Nepal.



Community and leasehold forestry

Ecological degradation through deforestation has been a major concern for Nepal, especially for its rural communities.

To counteract this, FAO assisted these communities in becoming self-sufficient by involving them in forestry programmes. Community forestry is now an internationally acclaimed programme, and almost 18 000 forest user groups in Nepal have benefited.

The introduction of leasehold forestry and livestock programme has added new dimensions with plots of land being leased for a 40-year renewable period to landless farmers living below the poverty line. The programme reaps both environmental and economic benefits for communities. Currently FAO is providing technical assistance to Nepal for implementing a leasehold forestry project.





Watershed management

Cooperation in the area of watershed management dates back to the mid 1960s with the deployment of FAO experts to Nepal to assess the Trishuli river watershed to identify ways to develop and protect it. These efforts were followed by comprehensive assessments of numerous other watersheds throughout the country.



Vegetable and vegetable seed production

FAO's collaborative efforts in this area began with training in the late 1970s and continued for over 15 years.

Partly due to those efforts, Nepal now meets most of its vegetable requirements through domestic production by a thriving private sector which has been receiving supplementary support such as necessary infrastructure by the government.



Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

IPM is a plant protection methodology for controlling plant pests and diseases through the use of predators or bio-pesticides, rather than the overuse of dangerous chemical pesticides.

Since 1997, FAO has collaborated with the government, rural community and development partners to educate smallholder rice and vegetable farmers in the IPM methodology and to help communities manage plant disease risks in a sustainable way.

This approach helps farmers reduce their financial losses, while minimising environmental damage and human health hazards involved with using common pesticides.



Current collaborative activities

At present over 150 national and international FAO staff are collaborating with counterpart governmental officer, the private sector and the non-governmental sector.

The total operational budget at present is of the order of USD 40 million.

FAO continues to extend support throughout the country and current interventions include forestry, climate change, the prevention and control of Avian Influenza and other trans-boundary animal diseases. The Organization also plays a vital role by providing both urgent humanitarian and rehabilitation support in times of natural disasters.



Partners

In its assistance and support to the government to develop the agricultural and rural sectors, FAO maintains broad partnerships with other UN and bilateral/multilateral bodies, financial institutions, and international as well as national civil society and non-governmental organizations to help mobilise human as well as financial support.

Over the years, main partners of Nepal-FAO cooperation have been:

- Asian Development Bank
- Australia
- Belgium
- China
- Denmark
- Finland
- Germany
- International Fund for Agriculture Development
- Italy
- Japan
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- The European Commission
- The Netherlands
- The World Bank
- Trust Fund Donors
- United Kingdom

The way forward

Ensuring further enhanced national ownership of the development activities FAO is undertaking in Nepal, increasingly a programmatic approach is adopted such as the recent initiatives to formulate the National Agriculture Sector Development Priority (NASDP) and the Country Programme Framework (CPF)/National Medium Term Priority Framework (NMTPF).

During these processes the following important areas have been identified:

- 🍅 Enhancing food and nutrition security and safety
- 🍅 Enhancing application of improved technologies and tools
- 🍅 Promoting enabling environment

- 🍅 Promoting market-orientation and competition
- 🍅 Sustaining natural resource conservation and utilisation
- 🍅 Developing infrastructure support facilities
- 🍅 Enhancing integration of gender in agriculture
- 🍅 Managing the effects of migration of agricultural labour
- 🍅 Disaster risk reduction and preparedness

These articulated programme priority areas are guiding FAO's future support to the government of Nepal, and act as reference points while developing the Long Term Agriculture Development Strategy and National Food and Nutrition Security Plan.



FAO Representatives in Nepal

Office of FAO Representative in Nepal was established in Kathmandu in 1977. From 1951 to 1976 four Senior Agriculture Advisor and Country Representative led Nepal FAO team. Following are the list of FAO Representatives who have served Nepal till date:

1. Lars Stenstorm (Sweden)	1977-1979	6. Richard T Wurster (USA)	1994-1998
2. Jean Masrevery (France)	1979-1982	7. Winston R. Rudder (Trinidad)	1998-2002
3. George Axinn (USA)	1983-1985	8. Kazuyki Tsurumi (Japan)	2002-2006
4. Henry R Stennett (Jamaica) a.i	1986-1988	9. Bui Thi Lan (Viet Nam)	2006-2011
5. S.S. Mahdi (India)	1988-1993		
		Assistant FAO Representative (Programme)	
		Lakshman Kumar Gautam	2003-2011
		Assistant FAO Representative (Administration)	
		Sonam Dhakhwa Genpo	2010 to date

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