



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

MAURITIUS AND FAO

PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

UN system support to Mauritius has evolved over the years to respond to changing demands in the face of a fast evolving economic, social and political situation in the country. Upon the request of the Government of Mauritius, the first FAO team started its work in 2011 to revisit the role of the country's agricultural services. Today, an FAO National Correspondent oversees FAO operations in Mauritius in collaboration with a team based in FAO representation in Madagascar.

Policy, planning and programme development assistance

One of the key features of cooperation between Mauritius and FAO is the transformation of agricultural services. The goal of the transformation is to ensure a focus on policy, planning and programme development; provision of rules, regulations and legislation; monitoring and evaluation; analysis; and surveillance and enforcement of international and regional obligations. In addition, services contribute to the sustainability of the country's food and agriculture sector through technical backstopping.

In recent years, FAO has been actively supporting Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues through various national as well as regional projects and programmes aimed at increasing agricultural production and building capacity to increase the output of the agriculture sector. Currently, FAO is supporting the Government in developing the legislative framework for Organic certification, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) driven land suitability maps, Information Technology driven farm animal databases and development of the agro-forestry sector in Mauritius.

Matching FAO's expertise to Mauritius's development priorities

FAO assistance in Mauritius is shaped by the **2018-2021 Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, which is centred on three priority areas:

- ➔ **Promotion of more sustainable and environment-friendly practices and use of adaptation and mitigation measures in the context of climate change for enhanced resilience for farming and food security and safety**
- ➔ **Implementation of adapted tools, policies and incentives that will promote a conducive environment for selected strategic value chain for effective import substitution**
- ➔ **Promotion of sustainable and responsible use of marine resources to address the social and economic challenges**

Jointly developed with the Government and other partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies, including the Vision of Mauritius in 2015-2030 and the Three-Year Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

FAO's work is also aligned with the Strategic Plan 2016-2020 for the Food Crop, Livestock and Forestry, which aims to increase production of high-quality strategic crops, vegetables and meat to satisfy local demand and to promote the development of the agri-business sector to enhance import substitution in order to reduce dependency on imports.

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Promoting agroforestry

FAO is presently supporting the Government to assess the potential of agroforestry in Mauritius, build capacity for technical officers and field officers, produce guidelines and manuals as awareness and guiding tools for farmers and new practitioners, appraise and reform regulations, legal restrictions, and land-use policy for the development of agroforestry and to propose schemes and interventions to favour its development. Through a project on agroforestry development, incentives promoting the competitiveness and effective access in agri-food systems for youth in agri-entrepreneurship

“Food security and nutrition must be a priority in Small Island Developing States.”

Qu Dongyu
FAO Director-General

activities and decent employment will be put in place. Furthermore, good agroforestry options in underutilized and abandoned agricultural land will be identified, tested and adopted during the project.

Promoting the integrated of agricultural landscapes

FAO is supporting the Island of Rodrigues through the implementation of the project on "Strengthening Rural Development Planning in Rodrigues through Land Suitability Maps and Natural Resource Information Systems", to optimize their land use practices through land suitability maps and natural resource information systems, relevant to land use planning, in place and maintained by staff of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) trained in the relevant methods. Activities to support the initiatives consist of: updating the existing land use map, generating location-specific soil property information; updating or adding suitability maps to a centralized database accessible to all RRA departments through the internet or intranet; capacity building in the needed surveys by both technical staff and decision-makers to interpret the results for use in development planning; and promoting the use of those maps and data for a more inclusive and participatory land use planning exercises.

Animal identification

For the promotion of a conducive environment for selected strategic value chains for effective import substitution, a TCP Facility on technical support for the development of a national animal identification and recording system in Mauritius was initiated in December 2019. A system for the official identification of livestock will be designed through this project.

Reviewing the fisheries sector

FAO also provides technical support to the Government in its commitment to make the blue economy a key industry to sustain economic diversification. In this context, FAO helps to support the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping in making it more efficient and effective in achieving the target of doubling the GDP share of the Ocean Economy. Specific activities include: reviewing identified needs for policy and legislation reforms and detail assessment of the current institutional set-up and capacity needs; formulating recommendations and developing an action plan for the Government to implement suggested reforms; and formulating action plans, including proposed policy, legal and institutional reforms.

Organic farming

In line with the Government's commitment to promote safe and sustainable agriculture, support is being provided to the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security through the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Facility to draft national legislation and to implement regulations on organic agriculture. Through the TCP "Support for the Development of Organic Farming and Institutional Capacity Building in Mauritius", legislation was drafted on a national organic farming strategic plan from 2017 to 2027 along with national standards for organic crop and livestock production. Moreover, an institutional framework for organic farming certification was proposed.

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