



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: A CASE STUDY

NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY ENVIRONMENT

The Republic of Moldova is committed to achieving the vision set out by the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), describing it as “an imperative of the modern world and a roadmap to the future we all strive for¹.” In 2016, the country established a National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development, chaired by the Prime Minister. The Council includes heads of all the Republic’s ministries, representatives of the private sector and academia, as well as observers from the UN and civil society. It is tasked with coordinating and monitoring progress towards the SDGs. Efforts are being made to nationalize goals and targets, and the process of national adaptation, integration and implementation of the SDGs is under way.

CHALLENGES TO CHANGE

Despite the country’s efforts, the Republic of Moldova’s progress on the path towards the SDGs was faltering. Preliminary policy frameworks had been established, and the foundations of institutional mechanisms laid, yet they were encountering a number of significant challenges. While ministerial tasks and duties had been outlined, this process lacked concrete, operational focus. The country’s ministries had not been formally entrusted with the responsibility to adapt and implement relevant SDGs, causing their nationalization to stagnate. Despite its essential role in driving positive change, the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MoARDE) lacked tools and a clear action plan. Determined to overcome these challenges, the Republic



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of Moldova requested assistance from FAO and the UN Country Team, to accelerate the SDG nationalization and implementation process.

MAINSTREAMING SFA IN SUPPORT OF THE SDGs

Work began in August 2016, bringing together FAO, the UN Country Team, MoARDE and independent think-tank Expert-Grup. A preliminary assessment highlighted a set of major issues to be addressed. Among them:

- Insufficient alignment between national policies and the SDGs.
- Lack of methodologies, coverage, accessibility and accuracy of data.

¹ Statement by Lilian Darii, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova

- Limited cross-sectoral coordination and communication.
- Limited agriculture-related SDG nationalization.

The process of assisting the Republic of Moldova in its nationalization of the SDGs began with identifying relevant and priority targets, as well as adjusting them in order to reflect domestic specificities. Policy-makers, development partners, private sector representatives, civil society leaders and organizations were invited to the initial consultations.

Championing sustainable food and agriculture

FAO supported MoARDE in analysing the Republic of Moldova's progress towards three SDGs that are closely connected to sustainable food and agriculture: SDG 2 (zero hunger); SDG 14 (life below water); SDG 15 (life on land). These SDGs offer strong multiplier effects on poverty eradication in the Republic of Moldova and, being interconnected with the other goals, can spur progress right across the 2030 Agenda.

OUTCOMES

The analysis provided valuable insights and data to the intervention has had a positive and lasting impact on the Republic of Moldova's efforts of delivering on the 2030 Agenda.

Two-year national SDG action plan. The Republic of Moldova has embraced and committed to the nationalization and implementation of the SDGs related to SFA, following FAO's recommendations. The two-year action plan developed through FAO's support, which contained 14 clear, actionable steps aimed at fostering positive change in the area of food and agriculture, has been incorporated in the country's National Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy, and is currently under implementation.

Enhanced communication and coordination. The MoARDE has redoubled its efforts of achieving the SDGs and is currently setting up focal points for SDG indicators. The Ministry is also creating a council for the implementation of SDGs related to food and agriculture and is establishing an institutional mechanism designed to ensure sound communication and coordination among relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders – the first of its kind in the Republic of Moldova.

Raising awareness. Three technical workshops on SDG implementation and monitoring were organized by FAO in the Republic of Moldova. Their goal was to raise awareness of the key role SFA plays in the achievement of the SDGs and to support the government in nationalizing the SDG targets. The workshops also aimed to strengthen relevant national statistical capacities and facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue among all stakeholders working towards the 2030 Agenda workshops have been recognized as the first national examples of engagement of stakeholders in cross-sectoral technical discussions on SDG targets and indicators related to the agricultural sector.

Continued support. FAO continues to support MoARDE in the nationalization, implementation and monitoring of SDGs related to sustainable food and agriculture. By providing technical expertise and supporting evidence-based decision-making, FAO assists the Ministry in its tasks of setting national targets, aligning the sectoral policy framework, and monitoring relevant SDG indicators.

THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF SFA

1. Increase productivity, employment and value addition in food systems.
2. Protect and enhance natural resources.
3. Improve livelihoods and foster inclusive economic growth.
4. Enhance the resilience of people, communities and ecosystems.
5. Adapt governance to new challenges.

FAO'S VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

A world where **food is nutritious and accessible for everyone**, in which natural resources are managed in a way that maintains ecosystem functions to support **current and future human needs**.

In this vision, **farmers, pastoralists, fisher-folk, foresters and other rural dwellers** actively participate in, and benefit from, economic development, have decent employment conditions and work in a **fair price environment**.

Women, men and communities live in food security, and have control over their livelihoods and equitable access to resources which they use in an efficient way.

To find out more about SFA visit:
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