

## BUILDING SUSTAINABLE TROPICAL FRUIT VALUE CHAINS GLOBALLY

The tropical fruit sector is very important in many developing countries, as it provides incomes and jobs for hundreds of thousands of farmers and other workers, contributing to the enhancement of livelihoods and food security.

Despite its importance, the sector faces significant challenges with respect to sustainability and resilience, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic's impacts have been stronger and more profound than on most other agricultural industries due to the perishability of tropical fruits, their comparatively higher prices and their heavy reliance on labour. This project was formulated to mitigate these issues by fostering the development of more sustainable, resilient and responsible tropical fruit value chains through multi-stakeholder engagement that targets the private sector.



### GOAL

The objective of the project is to develop a network of companies, trade associations and producer organizations that are committed to reducing the negative environmental, social and economic impacts of their operations and those of their suppliers. These companies will benefit from capacity development activities designed to help them assess and mitigate risks along agricultural supply chains, to put appropriate due diligence measures into place, and to ensure these are implemented. The project will strengthen capacity to deal with external shocks, be they on the supply side or the demand side (such as COVID-19 and future pandemics, plant diseases, extreme weather phenomena caused by global warming and other natural or man-made disasters), and recover from them while still developing their responsible business practices. This includes assistance in applying the *OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains* developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and FAO and other relevant instruments. A series of commodity specific and technical guides will be developed to assist companies in applying international standards for responsible business conduct and enhancing the sustainability of their operations, building partially on the findings of previous FAO projects that supported the development of sustainable agricultural value chains. Incentives for private companies to promote sustainable investment in the sector will be analysed, and a mechanism to ensure the future financial sustainability of project results will be presented. The project will also lay the groundwork for the establishment of a global multistakeholder platform on responsible business conduct and practices for tropical fruit value chains (either as a whole or for specific commodities). The platform will be launched at the end of the project, if possible.

### KEY FACTS

**Latest Approved Budget**  
USD 2 939 722

**Duration**  
December 2019 – June 2024

**Resource Partners**  
Federal Government of Germany,  
Federal Ministry of Food and  
Agriculture (BMEL)

**Beneficiaries**  
Stakeholders in tropical fruit value  
chains all over the world; in particular,  
companies, trade associations and  
producer organizations

# IMPACT

By developing a network of companies and suppliers that are committed to reducing the negative impacts of their operations, and enhancing or developing resilience strategies, it is expected that the project will support the development of global tropical fruit value chains that are more environmentally, socially and economically responsible and sustainable.

# APPROACH

- The project will be supervised by a steering committee made up of FAO management and experts and guided by an advisory committee with representatives from all stakeholder groups involved in the implementation of the project. There will be a steering committee focused specifically on resilience.
- A baseline survey will be carried out to identify key issues for sustainability and resilience and to determine if the targeted companies are observing international standards for responsible agricultural supply chains and due diligence.
- A study of the main challenges and constraints caused by external shocks to tropical fruit value chains will be conducted in consultation with the participating companies.
- Opportunities and challenges faced by companies in implementing international standards will be identified, and expertise, technical advice and tools to address these challenges will be provided.
- Tools to address specific needs, such as measuring carbon and water footprints, will be developed in collaboration with key actors from the sector.
- Practical capacity development and peer learning sessions (in-person or virtual) will help companies and producers increase their resilience and the sustainability of their businesses.
- Distance learning tutorials on resilience and sustainability will capitalize the knowledge and experience realized in other project activities and provide public goods for the sustainable impact of the project beyond its lifecycle.
- The project will build upon or collaborate with relevant programmes, including the OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains, the World Banana Forum, the FAO Umbrella Programme on Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI), the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) Umbrella Programme, and the FAO/International Trade Centre (ITC) Alliance for Action, to develop synergies.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## Project Code

FAO: GCP/GLO/022/GER  
Donor ID: GER-FAO-2019-3

## Project Title

Building responsible global value chains for the sustainable production and trade of tropical fruits

## Contact

Pascal Liu (Lead Technical Officer)  
[Pascal.Liu@fao.org](mailto:Pascal.Liu@fao.org)

Partnerships and Outreach  
For more information, please contact: [Reporting@fao.org](mailto:Reporting@fao.org)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, Italy