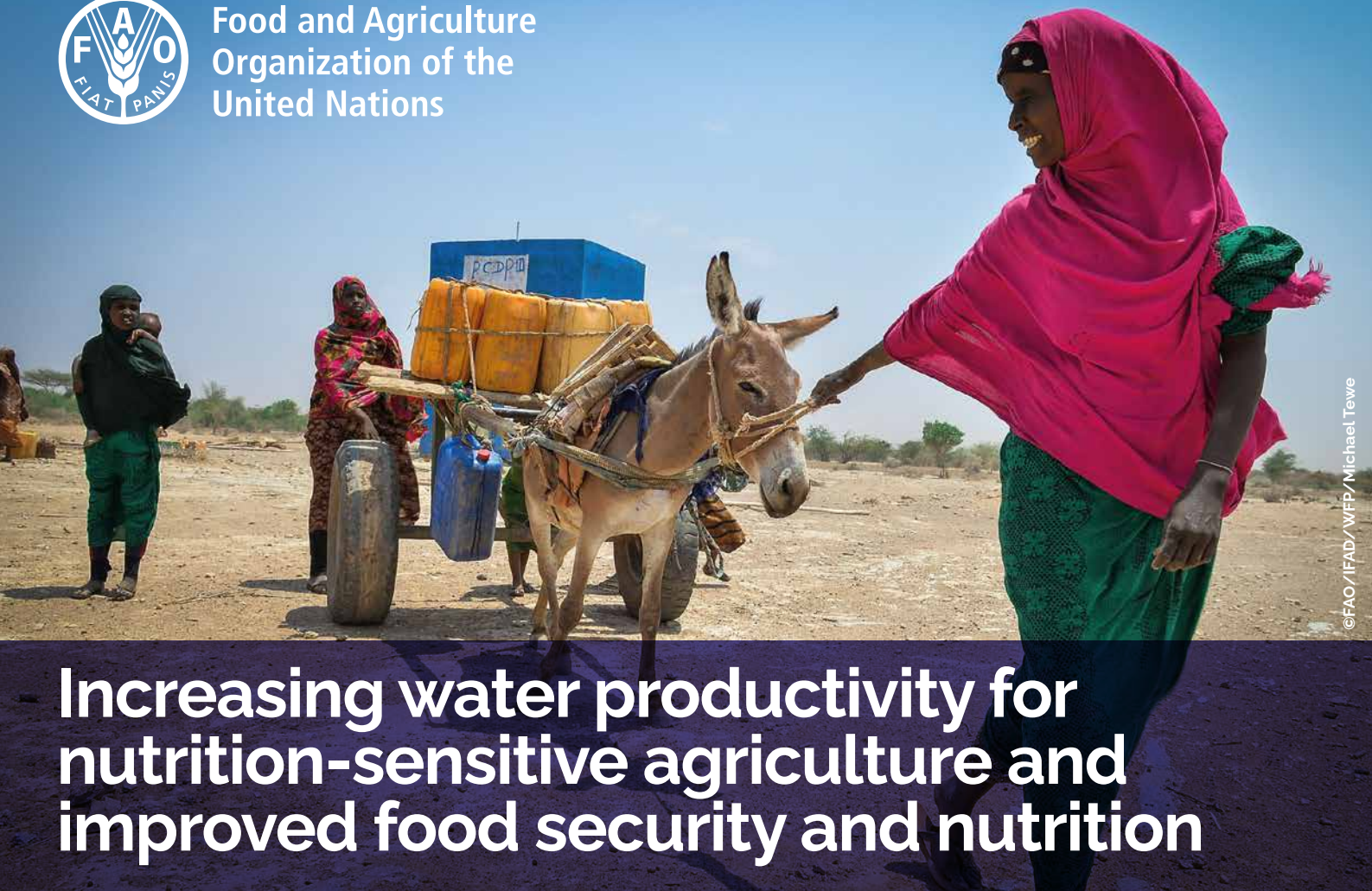




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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Increasing water productivity for nutrition-sensitive agriculture and improved food security and nutrition

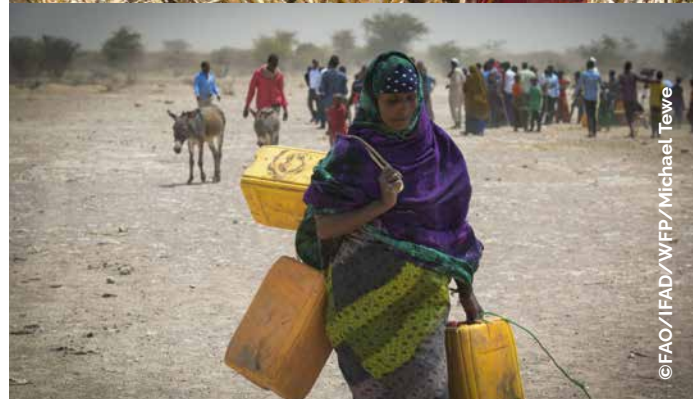
Introduction

Food system transformation is needed to address the hundreds of millions of people without adequate access to food or water for a healthy life. Optimal nutrition is inextricably linked to water for food, sanitation and hygiene. Addressing unmet needs for nutrient-dense foods will thus require improved harnessing and productive use of available water, together with other resources. There are separate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for nutrition and water but progress toward both will require consideration of the other. That is, the achievement of SDG 2 (end hunger and all forms of malnutrition), will require concerted efforts to improve the efficiency and productivity of water use (SDG 6.4) using a nutrition lens.

In this framework, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), is implementing a three-year project, **“Increasing water productivity for nutrition-sensitive agriculture and improved food security and nutrition”**, in six pilot countries: Mozambique, Rwanda, Niger, Benin, Egypt and Jordan.



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Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to improve dietary quality and diversity through the agricultural production pathway. Specifically, the project aims to strengthen the capacity of smallholder farmers to adopt sustainable water and soil management practices as well as agronomic practices that will increase yields, crop diversification, the nutrient-density and economic value of harvested crops and, as a result, incomes and health.

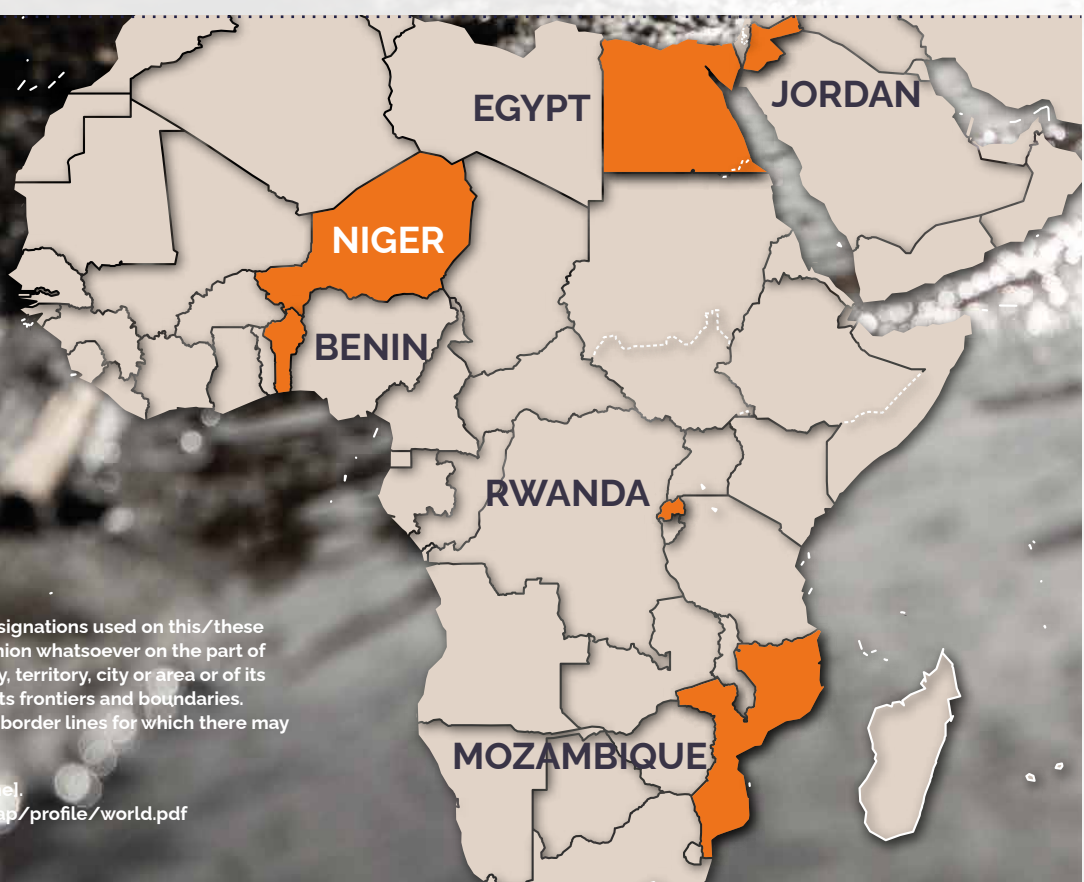
The specific objectives of the project are to:

- ▶ Develop and pilot new methodological approaches and guidelines on nutrition-sensitive agriculture water productivity in Benin, Egypt, Jordan, Mozambique, Niger and Rwanda.
- ▶ Promote inter-sectorial coordination on the management of the “Water - Agriculture - Nutrition – Food Safety” Nexus at national and global levels through the development of National Guidelines on nutrition-sensitive agriculture water productivity (NsWP).
- ▶ Promote national policy dialogue around policy coherence and coordination of actions to accelerate progress towards the achievement of water, food security and nutrition objectives.
- ▶ Catalyze partnerships that will address the constraints to smallholder farmers' sustainable access to remunerative markets.



Implementation Countries

The project is being implemented in Benin, Niger, Rwanda, Mozambique, Egypt and Jordan.



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Map source: UN. 2020. Map of the World [online]. <https://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/world.pdf>



Methodological approach

The project will draw on several innovative interventions, guidelines, and practices to increase nutritional yields through timely coordination of water, fertilizer, improved seeds and soil fertility conservation, while also considering nutritional and economic outcomes. To achieve these outputs, guidelines for field implementation will be developed using the farm field school (FFS) approach.

The methodological approach is comprised of five interlinked steps:

- ▶ **Needs assessment** through reviews and field visits undertaken in partnership with local governments for the preliminary mapping of the project beneficiaries, their specific needs and productivity constraints.
- ▶ **Sustainable production practices** covering four areas: (a) Sustainable water management practices, (b) Soil fertility management, (c) Best agronomic practices, and (d) Use of improved varieties.
- ▶ **Capacity building** through the development of five modules (i.e., soil/water management, agronomic practices, nutrition education, and market linkages through nutrition-sensitive value chains) and related field exercises using the FFS approach.
- ▶ **Nutrition education** targeting promotion of policy dialogue and sensitization for the integration of nutrition objectives into agricultural extension and advisory service programmes and policies.
- ▶ **Market linkages** through nutrition-sensitive value chains that link farmers to public procurement programmes and possible markets in nutrition-sensitive value chains that provide locally produced food to schools and other territorial markets.



Theory of change

The project aims to improve the availability, accessibility, and affordability of healthy diets, and increase the supply of diverse, nutritious foods for smallholder farmers. The project goal targets the capacity development of farmers as both producers and consumers. The project activities highlight the steps undertaken to help end hunger, achieve food security, and improve nutrition in all its forms, including promoting the efficient management of water for nutritious food production and increasing access to healthy diets.

A 'theory of change' for smallholder farmers water use efficiency towards improving agricultural water productivity (WP) whilst producing diverse crops with high nutrient content and economic value, i.e., moving beyond the traditional approach of "more crop per drop" to a more integrated approach of "more diverse nutrients and better economic prospects per drop".



Country Activities

- ▶ Assessment of the local context within each country, with the aim to identify specific needs and productivity constraints faced by smallholder farmers in the target areas.
- ▶ Baseline data collection, analysis and report writing, in partnership with national implementation partners.
- ▶ Capacity building/training activities on the use of the project methodological framework and guidelines, conducted using the FFS approach.
- ▶ Pre-testing, deployment, and subsequent adaptation of the project methodology and guidelines.
- ▶ Dissemination workshops to share lessons learned.

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