

Feeding the World

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Recognizing that environmental degradation, poverty and food security are strongly linked, the FAO Strategic Framework (2000-2015) stipulated that one of its corporate objectives is to support the conservation, improvement and sustainable utilization of natural resources for food and agriculture. FAO's agriculture, natural resources, forestry, fisheries, social and economic, and technical programmes devote considerable portions of their resources and effort towards this objective and to meet the sustainable development targets set by the World Food Summit (WFS), the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Beginning with the FAO/Netherlands Conference on Agriculture and the Environment (den Bosch, 1991), FAO has played a major role in the preparation of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, 1992) and its follow-up. FAO assisted the UNCED Secretariat in preparing the Agenda 21 chapters related to land, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Agenda 21 provides a comprehensive action programme to attain sustainable development and address both environmental and development issues in an integrated manner.

FAO played a significant role in the formative years that led to the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in June 1993. FAO actively contributed to the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg in 2002. The WSSD agreed on urgent action to implement Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) with time-bound targets.

The biennial cycle of CSD-16 and CSD-17 (2008-2009) will focus on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification, and Africa. In preparation for CSD-16, FAO has worked closely with the CSD Secretariat and contributed in the preparation of the Secretary General's Progress Report on all of the above thematic clusters. Accelerating progress in the implementation of the above thematic clusters of CSD-16 and CSD-17 is high priority in FAO. To this end, the Organization will continue to work vigorously to assist member countries, civil society organizations and other partners.



List of fact sheets

- Chemicals and Agriculture
- Conservation Agriculture
- Ecosystem Services Sustain Agricultural Productivity and Resilience
- Ending Hunger in Africa
- The Global Livestock Sector – a Growth Engine
- Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA)
- Land Tenure Supports Sustainable Development
- Rural Finance and Investment
- Supporting Rural Areas through Agro-enterprise Development
- Sustainable Land Management
- Water and Food Security