



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

A pair of hands is shown from a top-down perspective, cupping a large amount of white, oval-shaped seeds. The entire image has a blue color cast. A large, semi-transparent white circle is centered over the hands and seeds, containing the main title and subtitle.

OUR PRIORITIES

The Strategic Objectives of FAO

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OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Today, member states face an increasing myriad of demands and challenges in agricultural development. To support them, FAO has identified five key priorities on which it is best placed to intervene. These priorities or **Strategic Objectives** represent our main areas of work to achieve our vision of a world free from

hunger and malnutrition, where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner – contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



**HELP ELIMINATE HUNGER,
FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION**



**MAKE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
MORE PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE**



REDUCE RURAL POVERTY



**ENABLE INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT
AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS**



**INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS
TO THREATS AND CRISES**

For more information on the overarching strategic direction of FAO, see the *Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-19*.

THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF FAO

To help accomplish our Strategic Objectives, FAO works through five **Strategic Programmes** leveraging on our **core functions** to achieve concrete results. The Organization's **technical knowledge and expertise** underpins everything we do, while fully integrating our **cross-cutting themes** of gender, governance, nutrition and climate change impacts in all aspects of our work.

OBJECTIVE 6 – cutting across the Strategic Objectives Pages 26-27

Gender

Closing the gender gap in agriculture would generate significant gains for the agricultural sector and help reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

Governance

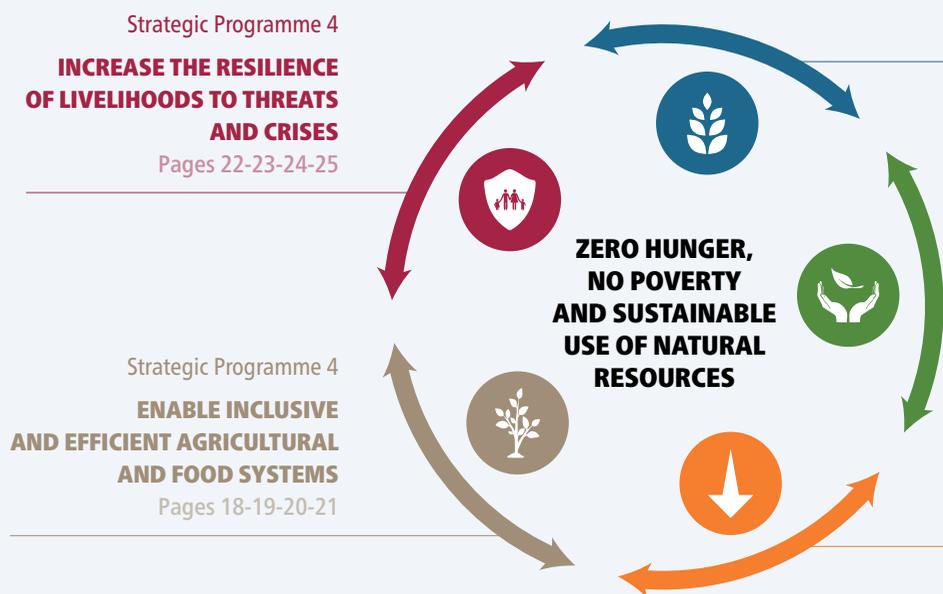
Our aim is to strengthen interactions between stakeholders as well as to make participation in the improvement of governance a widely shared, mutual learning process.

Climate change

Due to its extensive impact on the agricultural sectors, responding to climate change is vital for attaining all aspects of sustainable development.

Nutrition

We aim to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms, as a basis for good health and social and economic development.



OBJECTIVE 6 – cutting across the Strategic Objectives

TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP

FAO ensures its technical excellence through quality control by technical divisions, support to corporate technical networks and the delivery of technical expertise to corporate programmes. Maintaining capacity to identify and respond to emerging challenges through the technical committees, and preparing high-quality corporate flagship publications, is equally important to promote our technical leadership.

FOOD and AGRICULTURE in the 2030 AGENDA

Food and agriculture cut across all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and lie at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda. With an integrated approach aimed at tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger while sustainably managing natural resources, **the Strategic Framework of FAO is intrinsically aligned with the SDGs**. It is geared towards supporting countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda – ensuring that no one is left behind.

Strategic Programme 1

HELP ELIMINATE HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Pages 6-7-8-9

Strategic Programme 2

MAKE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES MORE PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE

Pages 10-11-12-13

Strategic Programme 3

REDUCE RURAL POVERTY

Pages 14-15-16-17

OUR CORE FUNCTIONS

1. Facilitate and support countries in the development and implementation of normative and standard-setting instruments such as international agreements, codes of conduct, technical standards and others.
2. Assemble, analyse, monitor and improve access to data and information, in areas related to the mandate of FAO.
3. Facilitate, promote and support policy dialogue at global, regional and country levels.
4. Advise and support capacity development at country and regional level to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate evidence-based policies, investments and programmes.
5. Advise and support activities that assemble, disseminate and improve the uptake of knowledge, technologies and good practices in the areas of our mandate.
6. Facilitate partnerships for food and nutrition security, agriculture and rural development between governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector.
7. Advocate and communicate at national, regional and global levels in areas of our mandate.

STATISTICS

The key-area of Statistics ensures the quality and integrity of the data produced and analyzed by FAO, including aspects of standardized methodologies, country statistical capacity data quality and statistical governance and coordination.

**HELP ELIMINATE
HUNGER,
FOOD INSECURITY
AND MALNUTRITION**



The past two decades have seen many developing countries achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) hunger target and several others meet the more stringent goal to halve the number of hungry people, set out at the World Food Summit in 1996. Building on the success and momentum of the MDGs, the SDGs go further, calling for an end to hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

Despite significant achievements, hunger and malnutrition still remain an actual obstacle to development in many parts of the world: a staggering one in nine people are still suffering from chronic hunger; one in four children under five years of age is at risk of dying as a result of malnutrition-associated diseases; over two billion people lack the vitamins and minerals they need to grow, develop and lead healthy lives.

There is more than enough food for everyone on the planet today, yet many people do not have the resources to purchase food in good quantity and quality, nor do they have the means to produce it. Wars and economic crises are also preventing people from accessing food, while climate change is significantly and increasingly affecting food security and nutrition in many regions of the world.

Furthermore, to eradicate food insecurity and ensure good nutrition for all, the gender based inequalities that still exist in our societies need to be addressed. Political commitment followed by

substantial policy action, must be the first step to produce a lasting and sustainable change in this respect.

In recent years, governments and development partners have strengthened their commitment to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, progressively acknowledging that the right to adequate food is a right that everyone is entitled to.

Efforts translated into national policy and legislative changes contributing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its call to end hunger once and for all.

FAO is constantly supporting these processes, making sure that no one is left behind.

OUR WORK from theory to practice

TURNING POLITICAL WILL INTO CONCRETE ACTION

All political action begins with commitment. When governments are committed to act against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, it is shown in the policies, investments, legislation they create and by the improvement of capacities to bring about a real change in their countries.

FAO supports governments and development partners to design

policies, programmes and legal frameworks that promote food security and nutrition within and across sectors.

Once policies are formulated, FAO advocates for the allocation of sufficient resources and for the development of appropriate organizational structures to ensure the effective implementation of food security and nutrition policies, programmes and laws.

ENHANCING GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

Ridding the world of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition requires action at all levels of society, from consumers to producers and their organizations, from governments, civil society organizations and the private sector to international organizations.

With this in mind, FAO guides all stakeholders at national, regional and international levels to enhance their governance and coordination mechanisms. FAO also facilitates stakeholders to broaden and deepen their partnerships for a more consistent, focused and coordinated action towards ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

IMPROVING EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING

Good decision-making stems from solid evidence and sound analysis. Knowing the nature of the food security and nutrition situation in a specific country is

SCHOOL FOOD LAW IN BOLIVIA

In many countries, stunting and malnutrition prevent children from going to school, depriving them of a better future. Although numbers are decreasing Bolivia is among the countries in Latin America with the highest rates of child malnutrition.

To help combat hunger in the country, FAO supported the Bolivian government in developing a new school food law. The law secures the right to food and provides a clear definition of responsibilities, establishing the framework for a sustainable school food nutrition programme, and contributes to addressing the root causes of poverty and malnutrition by creating opportunities for farmers.

Through its support to Bolivia's Parliamentary Front against Hunger and the University of San Andrés, FAO facilitated the participation of national and regional actors in the legislative change process and provided targeted technical support and capacity development on food security and nutrition. At the same time, national fora for dialogue were given space to ensure the new law was understood and accepted. The law was formally adopted in 2014 and is now considered one of the pillars of Bolivia's commitment in the fight against hunger.



key to identify and prioritize issues to address. At the same time, an understanding of the current policies, programmes, legislation and investments in place is crucial to monitor and assess their real impact on lowering the rates of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in the country.

Consequently, FAO assists countries in ensuring that the formulation of policies, investment and action plans is based on the

analysis of evidence generated through well-functioning food security and nutrition information systems. This includes helping governments generate credible data and statistics, strengthening the analytical capacities of relevant institutions, and supporting the dissemination and uptake of information and analysis by decision makers.

FAO works with partners to strengthen their capacities to

monitor progress assess impacts and learn lessons, while making sure that their actions bring their countries steps closer to eradicating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

FROM POLICY TO RESULTS: THE CASE OF SIERRA LEONE

Pressure on natural resources is increasing as new areas are cultivated or urbanized while others are abandoned because of degradation, climate change and conflicts. Inadequate and insecure access to resources including land, fisheries and forests often result in extreme poverty and hunger. Women are particularly vulnerable as tenure rights are often unequal.

After the Committee on World Food Security endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry in the Context of Food Security (VGGT), FAO started supporting countries in their implementation.

In Sierra Leone, FAO provided assistance to the government for the comprehensive assessment of national policies, strategies and laws related to tenure of land, fisheries and forests against the VGGT principles. The Legal Assessment Tool (LAT) underpinned the gender sensitive recommendations on the policies and laws that were reviewed. To ensure all relevant stakeholders were involved in the process,

FAO launched an institutional framework promoting dialogue with all actors.

Today, FAO and partners use this framework to channel technical support for the development of gender sensitive policies, strategies and laws related to governance of tenure in a context of food security.

Through the regular promotion of inclusive dialogue, the framework mechanism has improved policy coherence for better food security and nutrition. Country specific results include the adoption of

the National Land Policy and the Fisheries Strategies. Both incorporate VGGT principles, focusing on gender equality.



A close-up photograph of a person's hands. The left hand holds a long, thin, light-colored wooden stick horizontally. The right hand holds a small, white, cylindrical plastic cup. The background is filled with large, green, serrated leaves, suggesting an agricultural or natural setting. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

**MAKE AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
MORE PRODUCTIVE AND
MORE SUSTAINABLE**

Satisfying the needs of a growing and an increasingly urban global population – projected to reach over 9 billion by 2050 – requires significant increases in the provision of products from different agricultural sectors, including crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries. Current agricultural and food systems must increase production by 60 percent since not much new land is available. This means that a clear shift is needed away from current practices towards more sustainable approaches.

More productive and sustainable agriculture has the potential to satisfy this growing and diversified demand while maintaining the natural resource base and key ecosystem services, including pollination, soil fertility, quality water, biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

To be sustainable, production systems need to be economically viable for producers while also contributing to livelihood security and rural economies in inclusive ways. This requires securing access to resources, know-how, finance, markets and techniques for production that use inputs, such as water, fertilizers and pesticides, more efficiently.

There is a clear need to build resilience and adapt to climate change as part of broader sustainable agricultural development strategies. Climate related interventions can enhance productivity, income and resilience; while providing mitigation benefits

such as reducing deforestation, reversing land degradation and contributing to water and energy security. The agricultural sector is uniquely able to deliver these benefits.

Effective transition towards more integrated, sustainable agricultural production systems requires changing how sectors are governed. It entails better dialogue and policy coherence with all stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, academia and research institutions, and developing partnerships and accountability at different levels. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) makes it necessary to align and enhance investments in agriculture and to prioritize those actions that achieve measurable results on the ground.

OUR WORK from theory to practice

FAO supports countries in making agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable, adapting to changing demands and lifestyles and enhancing the agricultural sectors' contributions to the SDGs. This transition is being mainstreamed through supporting countries to adopt a common vision for sustainable food and agriculture, and translating it into actions through the following five interconnected principles:

Principle 1. Improving efficiency in the use of resources

Principle 2. Direct actions to conserve, protect and enhance natural resources

Principle 3. Protect rural livelihoods and improve equity and social well-being

Principle 4. Enhance the resilience of people, communities and ecosystems, especially to climate change and market volatility

Principle 5. Promote responsible and effective governance mechanisms

This common vision can be used as an entry point for discussion on more coherent and effective actions in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in support of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. FAO supports countries in adopting a common vision for sustainable food and agriculture, and translating it into action by:

Supporting producers in adopting more productive, sustainable and climate-resilient practices

- Helping producers test and adopt innovations, practices and production systems that increase productivity and resilience to climate change while preserving natural resources through participatory approaches;
- Working with institutions (including farmer's organizations, extension services, local NGOs, private companies etc.) to enhance their capacities to promote the adoption of more integrated, sustainable and resilient production systems.

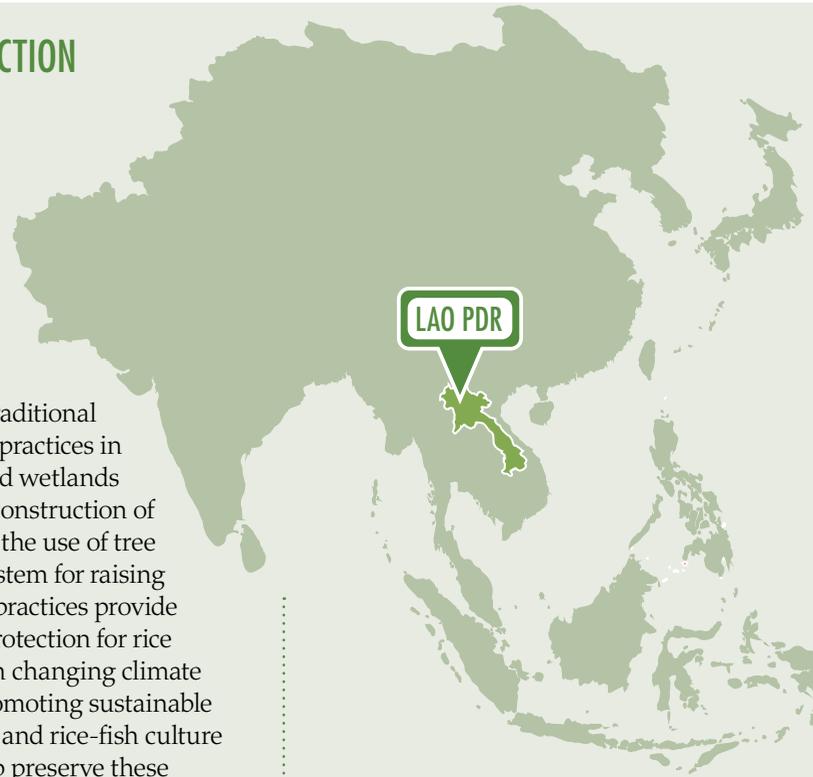
PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE RICE PRODUCTION AND RICE-FISH SYSTEMS IN LAO PDR

Lao PDR faces key opportunities and challenges in the agriculture sector, including increased commercialization and transparency of markets, growing pressure on land and changing climate patterns.

Two FAO projects supported farmers in transforming the rice sector into a dynamic and competitive one using sustainable practices. The first project enabled farmers to produce rice with better and fewer inputs such as certified seeds which resulted in higher yields and profits. The second promoted rice-fish systems where farmers learned the importance of goods and services produced by rice ecosystems while engaging in sustainable rice-fish farming practices. Rice paddies are rich ecosystems abounding with fish, crabs and other species that are essential for food security and nutrition of rice farmers.

Lao PDR's traditional aquaculture practices in rice fields and wetlands include the construction of fish pits and the use of tree roots as a system for raising carp. These practices provide additional protection for rice farmers from changing climate patterns. Promoting sustainable rice farming and rice-fish culture can also help preserve these traditional practices. A consumption survey was conducted by farmers themselves, involving 239 people in 50 households to record the weight and type of aquatic resources consumed during meals and

recorded their monetary value at the local market price which resulted in a new awareness by farmers of their nutritional and monetary value.



Promoting the transition to sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural policies and governance mechanisms

- Working with countries on reviewing and strengthening their policies, investment strategies and programmes and helping them align them in support of implementing the

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the Paris Climate Agreement;

- Helping countries to strengthen cross-sectoral dialogue, promoting the transition to sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture and a stronger role of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in national sustainable development.

Providing knowledge and information and promoting evidence-based decision-making

- Gathering and sharing information and knowledge needed to support the transition to productive, sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture;
- Working with public and private institutions to strengthen

FARMER FIELD SCHOOL IMPROVES FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN BURUNDI

With an expanding population living-off limited land, often divided into small parcels – increasing food production in Burundi will mean focusing on integration and efficiency in farming systems rather than simply bringing more land under cultivation.

Through projects implemented by FAO and partners, 300 hectares of watersheds have been stabilized through sustainable and integrated land management (SLM). The Farmer Field Schools used SLM practices to reduce deforestation and control soil erosion through farming, adopting agroforestry and contour planting - planting bamboo along the river banks to hold soil. The plantation of over 49 000 fruit trees across field crops also contributed to improve soil fertility and human nutrition.

Reduced erosion in the fields has resulted in higher production, as crops have not been destroyed by floods. This has encouraged farmers to first invest in better seed varieties for horticulture production, then diversifying to include apiculture and mushroom cultivation, which helped to increase their access to foods rich in vitamins and micronutrients which also contributed to generating more income. The fields were fortified through mineral fertilizers and then planted with better-quality seeds of crops, including maize,

whose yields tripled in one of the fields. Varieties of crops, including bananas and fruit trees, were chosen based upon resistance, yield and nutrition value.



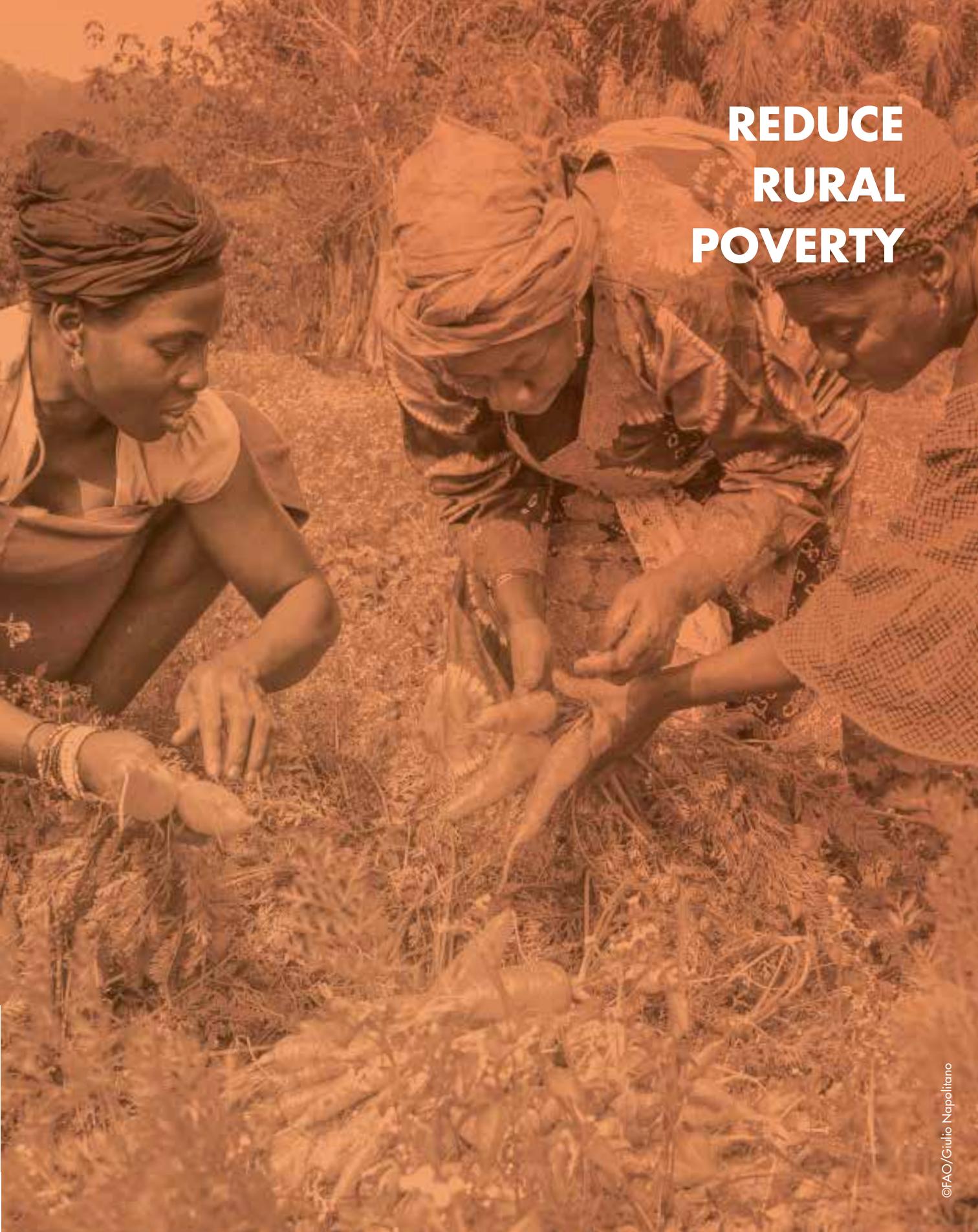
capacities to collect data, analyze and produce evidence for informed decision making on the management of natural resources across agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors.

Supporting countries in implementing policies and international instruments.

- Working with public and private institutions to strengthen national capacities in developing and implementing legal and institutional frameworks and

incentive mechanisms needed for the transition to sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture, forestry and fisheries;

- Supporting countries to implement international instruments and partnerships that promote productive, sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture.

A photograph with a warm, orange-brown color palette showing three women in a rural field. They are crouching and examining a large pile of harvested carrots. The woman on the left is looking down at a carrot in her hand. The woman in the center is holding a bunch of carrots. The woman on the right is also looking at the carrots. The background shows a field of dry vegetation and trees under a hazy sky.

**REDUCE
RURAL
POVERTY**

Poverty is one of the biggest obstacles to human development and economic growth. Although progress has been made in reducing poverty globally, about 900 million people continue to live in extreme poverty and inequalities are still pervasive.

Most of the poor live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Yet, their productivity and income are low because they lack access to resources, services, technologies, markets and economic opportunities.

With the adoption of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, countries have renewed their commitment to fight against poverty and hunger, acknowledging that inclusive and equitable growth is key for achieving sustainable development and moving people out of poverty.

As part of its mandate, FAO supports countries to reduce rural poverty by making ongoing processes of structural and rural transformation more pro-poor and inclusive, to make sure that no one is left behind.

PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY

In low-income countries in particular, investing in agriculture is more poverty-reducing than investing in other sectors, as it offers the most direct route for rural people to benefit from land and labour – their main assets.

Yet, investing in agriculture is not enough to reduce rural poverty because the poor often engage in multiple economic activities. While pro-poor growth starts in agriculture, reducing rural poverty requires increasing agricultural productivity, creating jobs, economic diversification and investing in people.

Recognizing the diverse spectrum of poor rural households, FAO proposes a broad approach with differentiated strategies to help the rural poor move to a high labour status and productivity, and reach decent standards of living through their livelihoods.

The multi-sectoral approach of FAO aims to address the social, economic, political and daily challenges that poor rural people face, by:

- increasing access to natural resources and other assets for the rural poor; improving their productivity and capacity to manage risks; and linking small-scale agriculture to markets and food systems;
- creating decent off-farm employment for the poor in the rural non-farm economy;
- building and scaling-up social protection systems;
- strengthening rural institutions and empowering the rural poor to benefit from the development process.

OUR WORK from theory to practice

EMPOWERING RURAL PEOPLE AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES, SERVICES, MARKETS, AND TECHNOLOGIES

FAO helps countries better engage poor rural households in agriculture to increase their productivity and income generation capacity. This includes supporting the design of pro-poor development strategies and programmes that improve rural people's access to natural resources, services, markets, technologies and inclusive finance, particularly for women and youth.

FAO also works to empower rural people and strengthen rural institutions, to improve their bargaining power, increase their participation in decision-making processes and influence the formulation of national policies that affect their livelihoods.

ACHIEVING DECENT RURAL EMPLOYMENT

Poor rural people often hold precarious, poorly paid and informal jobs and many of them, particularly women and youth, are unable to find employment. This can trap them in a vicious cycle of hunger and poverty.

EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL OF SOCIAL PROTECTION TO ERADICATE POVERTY

Although poverty rates have decreased in most countries of the region, millions of families in sub-Saharan Africa depending on subsistence agriculture and rural labour markets continue to be locked in the vicious circle of rural poverty.

Partnering with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), national research institutions and governments of seven countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the work of FAO on social protection has demonstrated the impact of national cash transfer programmes on ending poverty in the region.

The development of rigorous impact assessments, carried out in close coordination with governments and embedded in national policy

processes, helped strengthen the perception of social protection as an investment rather than a cost. Today, policymakers are increasingly viewing social protection as an effective measure to combat hunger, reduce poverty and foster rural development.

National level policy discussions and actions around social protection are being expanded in countries such as Lesotho, and Zambia. Cash transfers can help poor and marginalized families build assets, and generate economically productive activities. By March 2014, the Child Grant Programme in Lesotho had reached 19 800 households and provided benefits for about 65 000 children across 10 districts.



FAO works to build lasting policy change for creating more decent jobs and reduce poverty in rural areas. This includes supporting the formulation of policies, strategies and programmes that foster decent rural employment creation, especially for youth and women, and promoting the application of international labour standards to rural areas, particularly for child labour prevention.

FAO also works to build human capital, providing the rural poor with skills and capacities to access

decent employment opportunities in agri-food systems as producers, entrepreneurs, or wage workers.

REDUCING DISTRESS MIGRATION

Migration is a key component of development process and yet, in poor rural areas, it is becoming a forced choice rather than an option. In many countries, poverty, food insecurity, lack of employment, limited access to social protection, natural resource depletion and climate change are

forcing rural people to migrate in search for better opportunities.

Agriculture and rural development can make a strong contribution to address the root causes of distress migration by giving poor people viable options for moving out of poverty within their own communities. FAO helps countries curb distress migration, focusing on the social and economic conditions of the rural areas of origin. FAO also contributes to strengthen community resilience and promoting investments in protecting, saving and



FARMER FIELD SCHOOLS: EMPOWERING SMALLHOLDERS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

In the Near East and North Africa, more than 80 percent of agricultural production is provided by small holders. Yet, rural poverty lingers and small-scale agriculture remains neglected by major agricultural policies.

FAO has supported the government in creating around 2 000 Farmer Fields Schools to help small-scale farmers improve their livelihoods and move out of poverty in the region. This inclusive community-based approach is part of the Regional Initiative on Small Scale Agriculture. It aims to improve rural livelihoods by disseminating good agricultural practices and supporting small-scale farmers to enhance

their agricultural skills. Farmer Fields Schools have proven to be crucial in intensifying agricultural production and reducing rural poverty, especially in Tunisia and Jordan. Through this approach, FAO has disseminated good agricultural practices, and helped farmers acquire technical skills and knowledge, improving their productivity, income and food security. Farmer Fields Schools have also increased social inclusion and empowered people, especially women, to participate in the social and economic life of their communities.

NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Together, these measures help unlock the potential of small-scale agriculture to boost local economies, create decent job opportunities and foster rural development in the region.

rebuilding livelihoods of displaced populations and host communities.

BUILDING INCLUSIVE, NUTRITION-SENSITIVE, RISK INFORMED AND SHOCK-RESPONSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

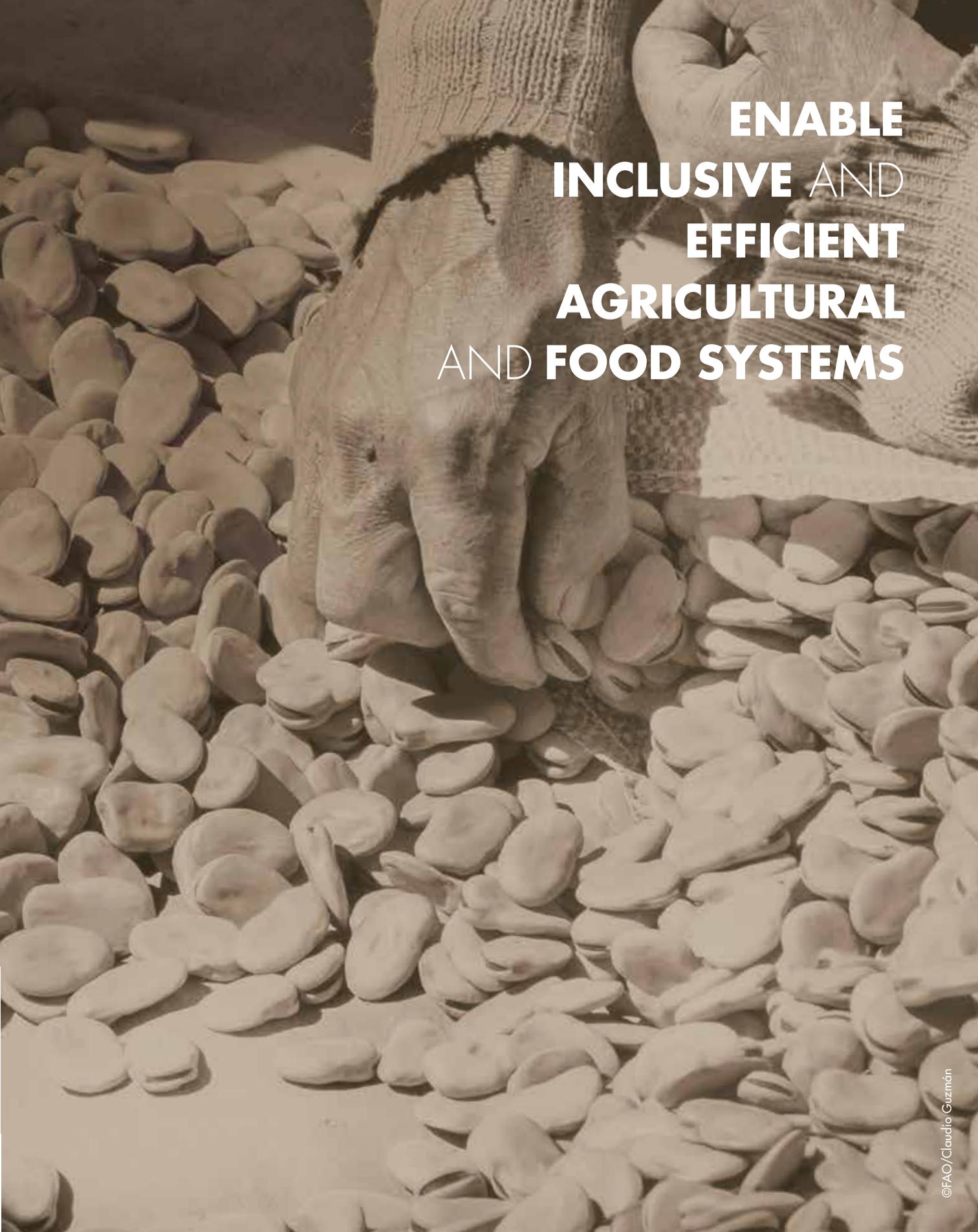
Social protection can help households manage risks and shocks and facilitates economic transition, providing a minimum income for the poorest and helping the poor transition into jobs and

income-generation opportunities by relaxing insurance and credit constraints.

A sustainable transition to the labor market would require that social protection is also extended from a risk management and social assistance, to a stabilization and transformation role. It is therefore critical to ensure that rural farmers and farm workers have access to a minimum package of social protection.

FAO provides countries with evidence-based policy support to

design nutrition-sensitive, risk informed and shock-responsive social protection systems, and advocates for expanding the coverage to poor and extremely poor rural people. FAO also promotes coherence between social protection and agriculture by generating evidence on the productive impact of social protection in rural areas and supporting the design of broader rural development strategies that combine these components.



**ENABLE
INCLUSIVE AND
EFFICIENT
AGRICULTURAL
AND FOOD SYSTEMS**

In our increasingly interconnected world, agriculture and food systems are crucial for countries in meeting the objectives set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to eliminate hunger, improve nutrition, reduce rural poverty, and increase resilience to climatic and economic shocks.

Globalization has brought revolutionary changes to agricultural and food systems, while rapid urbanization has transformed supply chains. Today's global agricultural markets are more integrated, but potentially more risky as opportunities for trade in developing countries increase alongside the need to intensify food production to feed a growing planet.

Countries require assistance and capacity building in accessing international markets and meeting international standards for food safety. Increased investments along value chains are key along value chains to produce better quality products that ensure nutritional needs are met and higher prices attained by producers.

OUR WORK from theory to practice

SUPPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF STANDARDS

Internationally agreed standards on plant health, animal health and food safety contribute to the

safety and quality of food, thereby protecting consumers. Countries require support to implement and enforce the relevant regulations and standards.

FAO works with countries to:

- Ensure they are active members of FAO and WHO's Codex Alimentarius.
- Build country capacity to apply Codex Alimentarius' food standards, guidelines and codes of practice.
- Boost capacity to meet the necessary standards and procedures for accessing markets
- Strengthen regulatory frameworks and policies for plant and animal health, food safety and food quality.
- Support institutional and technical capacities of public and regulatory bodies.

ASSISTING COUNTRIES TO BENEFIT FROM TRADE

New and existing international agreements and mechanisms facilitate the development of trading systems and new market opportunities. Countries' access and ability to understand the rapidly changing international market and the potential consequences of changes must be better incorporated into decision making processes.

FAO works with countries to:

- Develop country capacity for evidence-based decision making in the formulation and adoption of trade-related agreements.
- Facilitate neutral dialogue on issues related to the formulation of trade agreements.

- Assist in the design of appropriate trade policy, raising awareness of the implications of changes to trade policies, and assisting in strengthening regulatory frameworks.
- Produce international market data and information as a basis for analysis of commodity market and trade related developments.
- Create awareness of international market information and analysis and its use in the formulation of trade and market policies.

DEVELOPING INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT VALUE CHAINS

Approximately three-quarters of the world's agricultural value-added activities take place in developing countries. Although heightened demand for high-value products is an opportunity for developing countries, modernizing agro-industries and food chains also poses risks in terms of equity, sustainability and inclusiveness, particularly for smaller-scale producers and agro-enterprises.

FAO works with countries to:

- Formulate and implement food industry and agribusiness development strategies.
- Provide policy guidance and capacity development on policies.
- Support market linkages through inclusive business models, including institutional procurement models linking smallholders to large buyers.
- Strengthen the capacities of private sector and producer organizations.

PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT AND TRADE IN UKRAINE

Although Ukraine has a strong dairy sector, its dairy farms are often small and have difficulties in delivering milk that meets quality standards.

These factors limit the sector's development. The loss of the Russian market for Ukrainian milk exports introduced an additional challenge to the industry, which was forced to seek new export opportunities.

In 2013, FAO and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) teamed up to launch the "Public-private policy dialogue in the Ukrainian dairy sector" project. A Dairy Working Group was established, gathering leading milk producers and processors, dairy industry associations, scientists, and



government representatives to find ways to develop the sector. Collaboration increased. New trade partners were identified. As a result, milk producers and dairy processors attended international fairs, and new quality standards were introduced into national legislation.

Ground-breaking results included China and EU opening their markets to Ukraine's dairy

products. The emergence of a stable policy environment also encouraged EBRD to scale up investment to modernize the sector.

With this collaborative spirit, Ukraine's dairy value chain is on its way towards a more inclusive and efficient model, engaging farmers and industry representatives in important policy decisions.

- Promote participation of women at higher levels along the value chain.
- Encourage South-South cooperation, allowing countries to learn from the successful experiences of other developing countries.

REDUCING FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

Food loss and waste contributes to food insecurity, squanders precious natural resources, and slows

economic and social development. Most food waste occurs at the consumption stage, whereas food losses arise from insufficient infrastructure, technologies and practices along the value chain.

Large quantities of food loss and waste occur around the world. This is a significant source of GHG emissions and a lost opportunity to enhance food security and nutrition. FAO is ready to support countries in their efforts to achieve the SDG target of halving food waste and reducing food loss by 2030.

FAO works with countries to:

- Support countries in calculating their levels of food loss and waste.
- Support policies, practices and technologies to minimize food loss and waste.
- Promote better linkages between industry, research, governments, civil society organizations and consumers to eliminate food loss.
- Build capacity to improve harvesting practices, transport, processing and storage facilities to minimize food loss and waste.

STRONGER SEAFOOD VALUE CHAINS TO PROMOTE FAIR TRADE IN TUNISIA

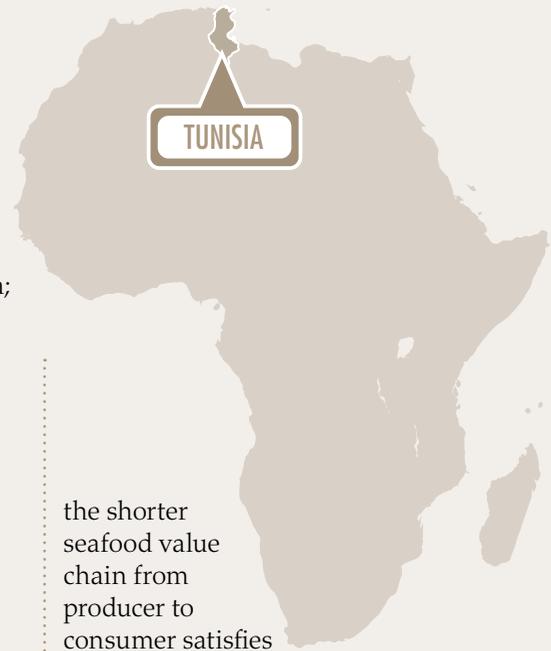
In Tunisia, women clam fishers work grueling hours under the hot sun, walking long distances during low tide to harvest clams by hand. They often earn 0.30-0.40 euro cents per kilo for clams that later sell for six to seven euro per kilo to European importers.

An FAO project with a women's clam fishing cooperative in Tunisia's Gulf of Gabes is working to create shorter value chains to allow women to gain greater profits from their work.

The women typically harvest clams of the kind *Tapes decussates*, or 'wild' clams. Indigenous to Tunisia,

Libya, Egypt and Morocco, they are harvested by hand, said to ensure a higher quality. There is a strong market for these clams just across the Mediterranean Sea; in Italy.

FAO works with Italian seafood importers to establish a direct supply chain to the women's cooperative where the women not only collect the clams, but also handle the post-harvest work: cleaning, packaging, and providing them directly to the importer for shipping. This way, they earn more. At a time when seafood consumers are concerned about social conditions of fishers,



the shorter seafood value chain from producer to consumer satisfies concerns that the women clam fishers and their families benefit from trade.

PROMOTING AGRIBUSINESS FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

Inadequate public and private investments derail the development of inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems. An estimated annual average of 83 billion US\$ of net investment in developing country agriculture would be required to increase production by 60 percent by 2050, yet agricultural investment has been either stagnant or declining in recent years.

FAO works with countries to:

- Mobilize investments in food and agricultural systems.

- Develop capacity of public and private actors to design, plan and implement investments.
- Promote financial institutions and services that meet requirements of investors of different sizes from the agricultural, fishery and forestry sectors.
- Promote principles for responsible agricultural investment.

ENSURING POLICY SUPPORTIVE OF FOOD SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

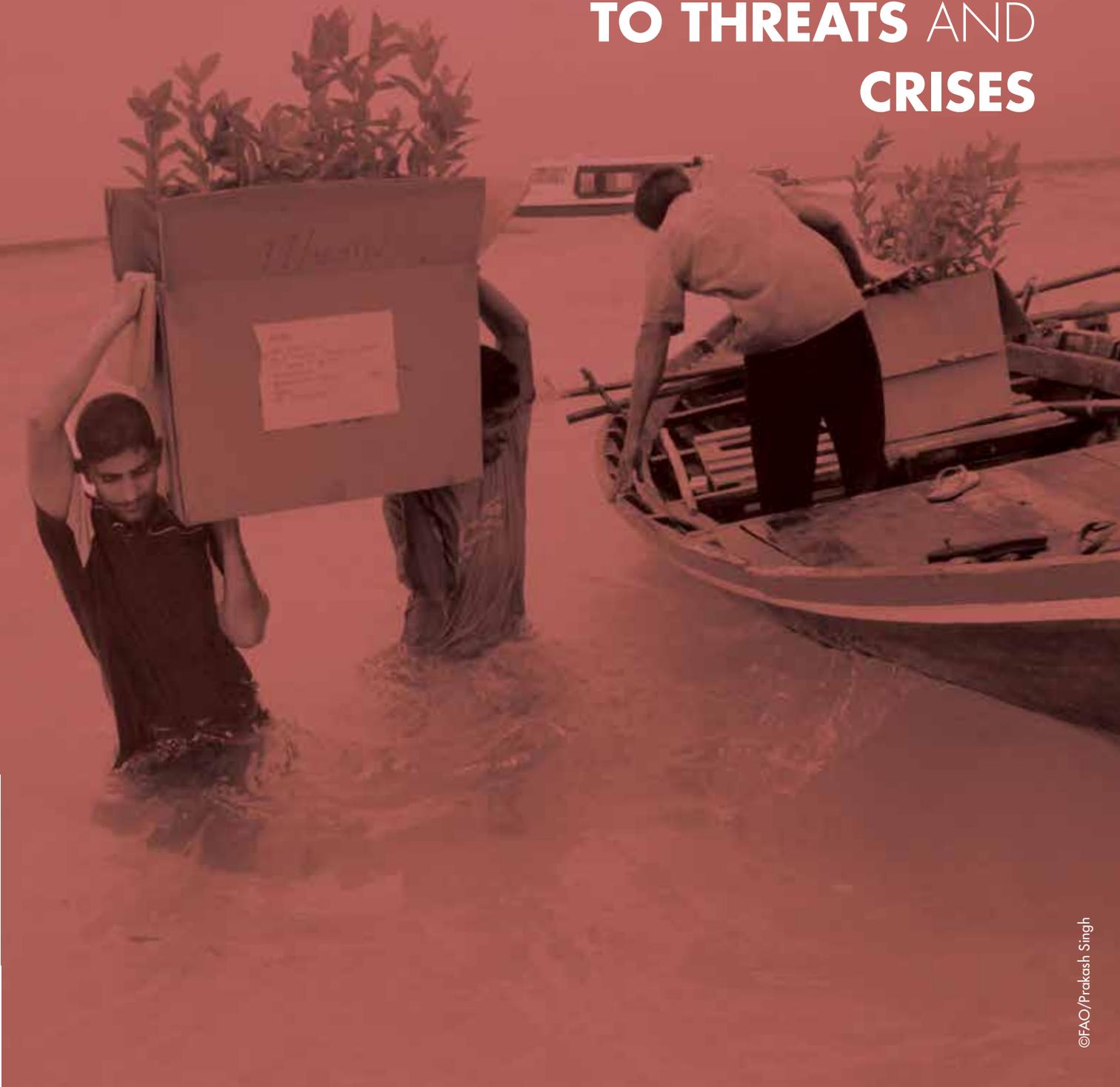
Promoting policy changes that foster the emergence of a stronger,

more competitive food sector and improve access to markets is critical.

FAO works with countries to:

- Improve data collection to develop policy-relevant indicators, analysis and dissemination.
- Enhance evidence-based policy dialogue at all levels by improving outreach of evidence and knowledge generated through advocacy and communication.
- Develop national capacities in policy monitoring.

INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS TO THREATS AND CRISES



People around the world are increasingly exposed to natural and human-induced hazards and crises – from drought, floods, earthquakes, disease epidemics and plant pests; to violent conflict, market shocks and complex, protracted crises. Worldwide, 75 percent of poor and food insecure people rely on agriculture to make a living, and are usually the hardest hit by disasters and crisis.

As the magnitude, frequency and impact of crises increases – aggravated by climate change and the unsustainable use of natural resources – more and more households are less able to prevent and absorb the impact of shocks or to recover and adapt their livelihoods, making them more vulnerable to future shocks. Building the resilience of agricultural livelihoods to threats and crises is key to making sustainable development a reality and a powerful lever to reach the Sustainable Development Goals’ pledge to leave no one behind. Agriculture and food systems must be productive and risk sensitive in order to feed present and future generations.

The resilience work of FAO is defined around three main groups of shocks: natural hazards, including climate-induced extreme events; food chain crises; and protracted crises, including violent conflicts. It is anchored in a wide range of technical expertise on the various types of shocks, the agriculture subsectors and the four interconnected priority actions

listed below, which include short-term humanitarian and long-term development and investment interventions tailored to local livelihoods and agro-ecosystems.

OUR WORK from theory to practice

ADVISING COUNTRIES IN GOVERNING CRISES AND DISASTER RISK

FAO assists communities, countries as well as regional and global authorities to develop and adopt appropriate and enabling policies, institutional structures, capacities and financing for disaster risk reduction and crisis management. Adequate disaster risk and crisis governance at all levels is crucial to protect agricultural livelihoods from multiple hazards. Risk-informed decisions and investments are essential to prevent and mitigate the increasing threats from multiple shocks that affect both the agricultural sector and people’s capacity to feed themselves.

MONITORING THREATS TO AGRICULTURE

FAO supports communities, countries and regional organizations to monitor threats and predict crises and disasters that impact the agriculture sector and food security. This includes efforts to link risk monitoring with timely alerts to trigger early action at institutional and community levels. This linkage

helps communities and countries to prevent, prepare for and reduce the impact of shocks, human suffering and associated costs. FAO also supports vulnerability and resilience analysis and measurement to inform decision-making for more appropriate policies, programmes, strategies and actions related to food security and nutrition.

REDUCING COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY TO CRISES AND DISASTER RISKS

FAO works with countries and communities to prevent and mitigate crisis and disaster risks through risk reduction technologies and good practices, risk transfer and social protection for people whose livelihoods depend on crop, livestock, fish and forest products. Scaling up vulnerability reduction measures is crucial to strengthen agricultural livelihoods and reduce the impact of shocks so that people can rebuild their livelihoods better and faster, contributing to lasting food security and nutrition. The evidence shows that it is four to seven times more cost effective to invest in disaster risk reduction than to rely on emergency response.

PREPARING FOR AND RESPONDING TO CRISES AND DISASTERS

Sometimes it is unavoidable that threats and crises devastate livelihoods. FAO works with governments, communities and other partners to prepare for and respond to shocks to reduce

THE PHILIPPINES: NATURAL HAZARDS, INCLUDING CLIMATE-INDUCED EXTREME EVENTS

The Philippines is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. Between 2006 and 2013, approximately 6 million hectares of crops were damaged by 78 natural disasters, costing the agriculture sector about US\$3.8 billion.

FAO has been assisting the Government of the Philippines in laying the groundwork for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the agriculture sector. When Typhoon Haiyan – one of the strongest typhoons to ever make landfall – struck the central Philippines in November 2013, it caused more than US\$700 million in agricultural damages.

In response, the humanitarian and rehabilitation of FAO efforts were designed to link with the Government’s longer-term development objectives and the principle to “build back better”. The programme reached over



1.1 million people through rice and corn farming, coconut-based farming systems, fisheries and coastal mangrove forest rehabilitation.

The combination of lessons learned from the Typhoon Haiyan programme and the experiences of FAO in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in agriculture allowed

FAO to strategically support the Government. It also facilitated the upscaling of good practices and technologies for agriculture and fisheries that boost productivity sustainably, while strengthening resilience to threats and crises.

their impact and save lives and livelihoods. Building resilience in the face of violent conflict is particularly challenging. In these situations, FAO adopts a conflict-sensitive approach to do no harm and avoid exacerbating the very drivers of the conflict. At the same time, FAO aims to address key drivers of conflict by placing

people at the centre of its efforts to proactively prevent, mitigate or resolve conflicts, for example around natural resource use and land tenure. Timely humanitarian support to protect and rehabilitate agricultural livelihoods ensures that people do not become irreversibly destitute and dependent on external assistance.

FAO combines the strengths of humanitarian assistance and longer-term development interventions to help build more resilient agricultural livelihoods. This enables people to become self-reliant and productive again, thus contributing to stability and conflict prevention.

GLOBAL – EMERGING PANDEMIC THREATS & FOOD CHAIN CRISIS

The world is facing an increasing risk of high impact infectious diseases, emerging or re-emerging, at the human, animal and environmental interface as a result of globalization, demographic growth, agricultural intensification and climate change.

If not properly tackled, these diseases can turn into major emergencies seriously affecting human health, food security and social stability, especially for the world's poorest people.

Increasing the resilience of countries to emerging pandemic threats is essential to break the poverty cycle and improve food security and nutrition. FAO will continue, through Phase 2 of the Emerging Pandemic Threats programme, to control diseases at their animal source and ensure that they are controlled and managed before becoming pandemics. Until 2019, more than 30 countries in Africa, Asia



and the Middle East will be targeted to build their veterinary systems' capacities to mitigate risk and reduce the vulnerability of communities to emerging and re-emerging pathogens. Diseases such as HPAI, the Ebola virus and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus will be addressed by enhanced early detection,

national level surveillance, preparedness and improved human hygiene practices. The One Health approach is at the heart of this programme, fostering multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary participation and adopting integrated disease risk management strategies.

OUR CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



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GENDER

Closing the gender gap in agriculture would generate significant gains for the agricultural sector and help reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

The agricultural sector is underperforming in many developing countries, partly because women tend to be locked out of land ownership, access to credit and productive farm inputs and access to markets as well as other resources and services. This gender gap impedes development and imposes great costs on societies in terms of lost agricultural production, food security, nutrition and economic growth.

Working as farmers, laborers and entrepreneurs, women are the backbone of rural economies. In a world where most of the people suffering from hunger and extreme poverty live in rural areas, it is imperative to ensure that women have access to the resources and services they need to be more productive.

FAO works with partners to eliminate gender-based barriers and support countries to devise equitable agricultural and rural development policies to increase the participation and empowerment of women and narrow the gap between them and men.

The main function of the FAO cross-cutting theme on gender is to coordinate the Organization's work on gender and women's empowerment and ensure the integration of these issues in all five Strategic Objectives and all the cross-cutting themes.

GOVERNANCE

Our aim is to strengthen interactions between stakeholders as well as to make participation in the improvement of governance a widely shared, mutual learning process.

Governance refers to the rules, policies and processes through which public and private actors

articulate their interests; frame and prioritize issues; and make, implement, monitor, and enforce decisions.

Development processes affecting food security, nutrition, livelihoods, and the management and sustainable use of resources, all face increasingly complex governance challenges.

To address these challenges, stakeholders will need to reach a common understanding, and to increase the dialogue within and across sectors. Governance analysis helps identify priority political challenges and bottlenecks, and throws light on how structures, institutions and the use of power can shape deliberation and decision-making about policies, programmes and investments. Governance-oriented stakeholder analysis assesses how different individuals, groups, or organisations are likely to be affected by political decisions, and contribute insight into how political arrangements or institutions can help to support sustainable solutions. Achieving progress requires involving stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, academia and research institutions, and developing partnerships at different levels.

To this end, FAO has adopted governance as a cross-cutting theme to enhance the effectiveness of our policy assistance and to better address the complex challenges if we are to achieve our Strategic Objectives in all aspects of our work within and across countries.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Due to its extensive impact on the agricultural sectors, responding to climate change is vital for attaining all aspects of sustainable development.

Climate change is having a considerable impact on agricultural sector and undermines the FAO mandate of achieving global food security and improved nutrition. A world without hunger will not be possible without a global concerted effort to respond to changing climatic patterns. FAO supports countries to combat this challenge head on by pursuing more productive, sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural development.

Responding to climate change is not only vital to eradicating hunger, but to achieving the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Poverty, health, water use and biodiversity will all be affected by a changing climate. Productive, sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural development is among the most effective ways to address and mitigate these inter-related challenges.

As a cross-cutting aspect of the work of FAO, climate change is being mainstreamed throughout our Strategic Framework. All of the FAO Strategic Programmes are examining how climate change affects their core aims, and what they must do to support Member States to respond effectively.

For more information and key-messages, see the brochure FAO's Work on Climate Change.

NUTRITION

We aim to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms, as a basis for good health and social and economic development.

In November 2014, world leaders adopted the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), and reinforced their commitment to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030. To meet these commitments, FAO emphasises nutrition-sensitive food systems that deliver healthy diets for everyone all year.

This approach requires action at every level of the food system – from input supply, through production, post-harvest management, processing, retailing to consumption – and therefore cuts across all of the FAO Strategic Programmes. Our work promotes the sustainable production of nutrient dense foods with the protection of biodiversity in favour of more diversified food consumption; the development of nutrition-sensitive value chains and trade, and effective consumer protection and seeks to ensure that the poorest have access to healthy foods and good nutrition even in times of crisis. In the process, we educate consumers in order to raise their awareness of the benefits of consuming healthy diets, so that they can make informed choices on dietary selection. We also assist governments and regional bodies in developing enabling environments that are conducive to improvements in nutrition and healthy diets.

