



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

E

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Thirty-third Session

Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco, 26-28 March 2024 and 18-20 April 2024

FAO results in the region – 2022-23

This document presents the main developments and results achieved by FAO in the Africa Region during the 2022-23 biennium. It also highlights FAO's contribution to supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*, leaving no one behind.

During the 2022-23 biennium, FAO responded to challenges and opportunities in agrifood systems by shifting its programmatic focus to implement the Four Betters. These shifts helped FAO build transformative partnerships, strengthen the linkages between FAO's knowledge work and investments and support evidence-based policy making.

FAO focused its work in the Africa Region through the following Regional Priorities:

- Regional Priority 1: Sustainable agrifood production systems
- Regional Priority 2: Efficient and equitable food and nutrition systems
- Regional Priority 3: Climate action and sustainable natural resource management
- Regional Priority 4: Building resilience, ending poverty

These Regional Priorities served as a mechanism for delivery at country, sub-regional and regional levels, facilitating greater impact of FAO's work over the biennium.

The document describes the achievements and lessons from the implementation of corporate and regional priorities in the context of FAO's work highlighting relevant cross-cutting themes as well as notable partnerships, gaps and new ways of working.

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference is invited to:

- a. note the achievements in the implementation of the Regional Priorities in the Africa region, including the boosting of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in agribusiness at country, subregional and regional levels; the scaling-up of the dialogue and engagement with the private sector and multilateral development finance institutions; the establishment of the FAO African Small Island Developing States programme road map; the exponential growth of the FAO climate

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

change adaptation and mitigation portfolio; and the progress made to strengthen the integration of digitalization into FAO projects and programmes;

- b. note the achievements on the implementation of FAO strategies and corporate initiatives in the Africa region;
- c. note the emphasis on country-led and country-owned programming in implementing the Regional Priorities, fostering critical and high-level commitment and leadership by the governments on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 and SDG 2, among the other SDGs in the region;
- d. recognize advancements in ensuring programmatic alignment and collaboration among subregional and regional offices and in reinforcing the monitoring, evaluation and learning function in subregional offices; and
- e. note the advancement in strengthening linkages between FAO's work and investment through enhanced partnerships with the private sector and development finance institutions, complementing those with smallholder producers and their organizations.

Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:

ARC Secretariat

ARC-Secretariat@fao.org

I. Introduction

1. The *FAO Results in the region – 2022-23* document serves to demonstrate that FAO's work provides a strong conceptual basis and means of action to achieve results for countries in the region, contributing to the *four betters* and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets related to agrifood systems.
2. Specifically, this document describes results achieved in the Africa region during the 2022-2023 biennium, including major highlights and cross-cutting themes under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.
3. This document also highlights new ways of working, modalities and programmes in effect in 2022-2023 and describes how these have impacted FAO's work in the region.
4. The document first describes key trends and developments driving agrifood systems in Africa, their implications and FAO's response. This is followed by a narrative of FAO's achievements in the Africa region, organized around the four Regional Priorities which are aligned with the 20 FAO Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. The presentation of FAO's achievements includes key corporate initiatives, accelerators, cross-cutting themes and partnerships in the region. In addition to achievements, the document also addresses new ways of working at FAO and how the region is positioned to deliver to member countries efficiently and effectively, working as One FAO. The document concludes with an analysis of gaps and lessons learned in implementing FAO strategies, corporate initiatives and programmatic work in the Africa region during the 2022-2023 biennium.

Context changes and priority adjustments

5. Key trends shaping FAO's work in the Africa region include impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine on food prices and investments in agriculture. Negative trends in deforestation, biodiversity loss and climate change have amplified strains on the ecosystems. Lack of decent employment opportunities and weak social protection coverage have contributed to rising inequalities. Collectively, these issues have intensified food insecurity, malnutrition and inequalities. However, demographic trends, urbanization, rising incomes and digitalization continue to provide opportunities for agrifood system transformation in Africa.
6. FAO responded to these challenges by shifting its programmatic focus as follows:
 - a. Addressing the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, targeting food loss reduction, promoting sustainable mechanization and leveraging digital solutions for productivity and market access (*better production*).
 - b. Influencing strategies, policies and behaviour change for healthy diets, promoting traditional foods, supporting implementation of national pathways for food systems transformation, and enhancing access to trade in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) of value chain actors, including women and youth (*better nutrition*).
 - c. Scaling up climate-smart agricultural practices, improving natural resource governance, mobilizing climate finance and identifying opportunities in the post-COP 27 agenda (*better environment*).
 - d. Focusing on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, long-term recovery and resilience, inclusive social protection policies, opportunities for women and youth in agribusiness, scaling up investments through the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and inclusive growth in the African Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (*better life*).
7. These shifts enabled FAO to catalyse investment in agrifood systems, strengthen linkages with multilateral development finance institutions and support evidence-based policymaking for job creation, access to markets and trade, healthy diets, resilience and targeted social protection programmes.

Achievements in the region

8. Following the endorsement by the 32nd Regional Conference for Africa (ARC), FAO has transitioned to a new programmatic architecture in Africa with four Regional Priorities:
- a. Regional Priority 1: Sustainable agrifood production systems
 - b. Regional Priority 2: Efficient and equitable food and nutrition systems
 - c. Regional Priority 3: Climate action and sustainable natural resource management
 - d. Regional Priority 4: Building resilience and ending poverty
9. The four Regional Priorities are aligned with the 20 FAO PPAs of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, supporting Members to progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods¹ and Agenda 2063: The Africa we want².
10. Recommendations of ARC 32 were addressed, including the following:
- a. USD 256 million (as of September 2023) mobilized to support Members through FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme;
 - b. USD 400 million³ programme “Scaling up Resilience in Africa’s Great Green Wall” developed for eight⁴ countries to boost resilience of vulnerable households to climate change impacts, while mitigating emissions in restored landscapes;
 - c. six-month accelerator mentorship programme launched for 50 African women entrepreneurs of small-to-medium enterprises operating in the agrifood sector (FAO and the International Agri-Food Network [IAFN]); and
 - d. virtual course “Agripreneurship 101” launched targeting 859 African youth agripreneurs.

A. Regional Priorities and key achievements

Regional Priority 1: Sustainable agrifood production systems

Programme Priority Areas (PPAs)	SDG Targets	Regional areas of emphasis
BP1: Innovation for sustainable agriculture production	2.3, 2.4, 6.4, 15.2 , 9.5	Animal production systems and One Health platforms and actions Crop production and protection systems
BP2: Blue transformation	2.1, 2.2, 14.2, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.b, 14.c	Fisheries and aquaculture systems
BP3: One Health	1.5, 3.d, 15.8	Animal production systems and One Health platforms and actions
BP4: Small-scale producers’ equitable access to resources	1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 9.3 , 6.b, 14.b	Crop production and protection systems
BP5: Digital agriculture	1.4, 5.b, 9.c, 17.8	Crop production and protection systems

11. Regional Priority 1 focused on advancing sustainable agricultural crop production practices, leveraging digital innovation and strengthening regional capacities for effective disease management and fisheries development, with emphasis on:

- a. *Data and information systems*: FAO developed the [Agricultural Information Management System \(AIMS\)](#) for 16 Southern African Development Community Members and tested a

¹ [Malabo Declaration on Agriculture 2014 11 26-.pdf \(resakss.org\)](#)

² [Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. | African Union \(au.int\)](#); [Agenda 2063: The Africa we want \(Popular version\) | African Union \(au.int\)](#)

³ Proposal submitted to Green Climate Fund (GCF) for USD 150 million plus USD 250 million co-financing from participating countries, national and regional partners, including FAO.

⁴ Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

comprehensive database on fisheries and aquaculture. Both efforts address the longstanding data challenges and provide a basis for strategic evidence-planning and decision-making.

- b. *Digital solutions*: FAO developed a programmatic framework for digital innovation for the region through the [Digital innovation strategy for agrifood systems in Africa](#), which is expected to meaningfully integrate the improved use of sustainable and inclusive digital solutions across African agrifood systems.
- c. *Innovative approaches*: FAO developed the One Million Silos Initiative⁵ and a ten-year programme to promote agroecology in West Africa and the Sahel, respectively, to promote the uptake of improved post-harvest technologies (storage chain) and to enable the large-scale transition of national agrifood systems to the agroecology approach.
- d. *Multisectoral coordination*: 24 countries⁶ improved their abilities to prevent, control and respond to animal diseases using a One Health (OH) approach. The OH mapping tool was endorsed by the One Health High-Level Expert Panel as a leading tool for assessing the implementation of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022-2026).⁷ The adoption of good practices for antimicrobial resistance (AMR)/use reduction has been boosted through 232 initiatives deployed in the region.
- e. *Strategic planning*: institutional capacities for agricultural planning and investment have been improved at subregional level through technical support for the elaboration of strategies, action and investment plans for animal/livestock feed and feeding (EastAfrica, and West Africa) and for the re-endorsement of the post-harvest losses management strategy (East Africa).
- f. *Policy and regulatory environment*: FAO promoted small-scale artisanal fisheries through the International Year of Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) 2022, leading to regional representatives incorporating small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in meeting⁸ declarations. AMR legislations were mapped in 15 countries and three regional economic communities (Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS], West African Economic and Monetary Union [UEMOA], Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel [CILSS]), supporting Members to revise and develop legislation meeting international guidelines/standards (e.g. Codex Alimentarius) and strengthening national and regional regulatory capacity on AMR-related areas.

Regional Priority 2 - Efficient and equitable food and nutrition systems

Programme Priority Areas (PPAs)	SDG Targets	Regional Areas of Emphasis
BN1: Healthy diets for all	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4 12.8, 14.b	Make nutritious foods safe, available and accessible
BN2: Nutrition for the most vulnerable	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2	Smart policies, institutions and investments for agrifood systems transformation
BN4: Reducing food loss and waste	2.1, 2.2, 12.3	Agribusiness, inclusive and resilient agrifood value chains

⁵ The initiative is the result of an FAO appeal to all technical and financial partners to support ECOWAS in the development and implementation of a major initiative in West Africa: the "One Million Silos Initiative for West Africa". The Initiative is supporting ECOWAS' Regional Storage Strategy implementation. It aims at increasing storage capacity by 500 000 to 1 million tons between 2023-26 for reducing PHL, improving food safety (reducing risks linked to mycotoxins contamination), and market access/regulation especially for smallholders. Its ultimate objective is to contribute to more resilient livelihoods and more inclusive and efficient food systems, by helping small farmers and agro-pastoral communities to preserve better and manage their food stocks, combat malnutrition, and establish more predictable and favorable terms of trade.

⁶ Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania Zambia.

⁷ One Health Mapping Tool piloted in Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia and United Republic of Tanzania.

⁸ 7th Meeting of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Ministers in Charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

BN5: Transparent markets and trade	2.b, 2.c, 10.a, 17.11	Trade and market opportunities for inclusive growth
BE4: Achieving sustainable urban food systems	1.1, 2.1, 11.a, 12.1	Make nutritious foods safe, available and accessible
BL2: Inclusive rural transformation	1.1, 8.3, 8.5, 10.1, 10.2, 10.7, 14.b	Agribusiness, inclusive and resilient agrifood value chains
BL5: Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative	1.1, 1.2, 2.1 2.2, 2.a, 10.1, 10.2	Make nutritious foods safe, available and accessible Smart policies, institutions and investments for agrifood systems transformation
BL6: Scaling up investment	1.b, 2.a, 10.1, 10.2, 10.b, 17.5	Smart policies, institutions and investments for agrifood systems transformation

12. Regional Priority 2 focused on shaping policy agendas, promoting an enabling environment for nutrition and healthy diets, and fostering sustainable agribusiness development in the region, with emphasis on:

- a. *Policy and legal environment*: FAO greatly contributed to the Post-Malabo dialogue. Its comprehensive mandate was acknowledged as catalytic for fostering the transformation of food systems; FAO's normative work facilitated the adoption of a model food law by the Pan-African Parliament. FAO has effectively influenced the policy landscape by enhancing policy and planning instruments for nutrition, healthy diets, the right to adequate food and food security, spanning across food fortification, food safety, dietary guidelines, post-harvest practices and organic specifications, among others.
- b. *Continental development agenda*: FAO continued to support the tracking of nutrition indicators under Commitment 3 and the Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard by the African Leaders for Nutrition. This enabled countries to meet reporting obligations under the African Union (AU) Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) under the 3rd CAADP Biennial Review.
- c. *Evidence-based solutions*: FAO led evidence generation for decision-making and policy dialogue on adaptation of agribusiness models to the AfCFTA,⁹ incubation and acceleration landscape in Africa (FAO with the African Union Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture [AU-DREA]),¹⁰ traditional foods (FAO in collaboration with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa [FARA]),¹¹ and food security and nutrition ([Africa – Regional Overview on Food Security and Nutrition 2023](#)).
- d. *Youth-sensitive programming*: FAO, in collaboration with the AU, has supported youth-sensitive programming through the launch of the [Youth-sensitive value-chain analysis and development](#) and [Investment guidelines for youth in agrifood systems in Africa](#) and contributed to linking programming with planning by training 40 participants from 18 African countries on investment guidelines..
- e. *Urban food systems strengthening*: FAO has contributed to the strengthening of the planning and governance mechanisms of African cities by supporting the endorsement of the Nairobi Food Systems Strategy by Nairobi City County and its integration into the Country Development Plan. Food governance mechanisms were established with FAO support in Nairobi and Kisumu (Kenya); Antananarivo (Madagascar); Kougheul and Bambilor (Senegal); and Kigali and Rulindo District (Rwanda).

⁹ FAO. (forthcoming). *Agri- Micro, Small and Medium Size Enterprise's (MSMEs) challenges and opportunities for improved trade and competitiveness within the AfCFTA*.

¹⁰ FAO. (forthcoming). *Agribusiness incubation and acceleration landscape in Africa – Role of agribusiness incubation in promoting agricultural entrepreneurship and enterprise development*.

¹¹ FAO. 2024. *Compendium of forgotten foods in Africa – A companion publication for Integrating Africa's forgotten foods for better nutrition*.

Regional Priority 3: Climate action and sustainable natural resource management

Programme Priority Areas (PPAs)	SDG Targets	Regional Areas of Emphasis
BP4: Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources	1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 9.3	Ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management Water management for sustainable agriculture
BE1: Climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood systems	2.4, 13.1, 13.2, 13.b, 14.3	Scaling up climate smart agriculture Ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management Water management and sustainable land management
BE2: Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture	12.2, 12.4, 12.5	Ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management Water management for sustainable agriculture Sustainable use of biodiversity, responsible governance of natural resources
BE3: Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture	2.5, 14.4, 15.1, 15.3, 15.4, 15.6	Sustainable use of biodiversity, responsible governance of natural resources

13. Regional Priority 3 focused on climate resilience, sustainable natural resources management, integration of innovative solutions and services across agrifood systems sectors, with emphasis on:

- a. *Climate financing*: FAO's partnerships with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and GCF in the region grew by nearly 60 percent compared to the previous biennium mobilizing USD 91 million. This allows FAO to better support countries in meeting their environmental priorities.
- b. *Climate-smart agriculture practices*: FAO has been supporting the adoption and/or scale-up of climate-smart agriculture practices on sustainable forest management, resource mapping, restoration monitoring, bio-enterprise development, efficient water use, energy efficiency, conservation, agroforestry and climate-smart small-scale irrigation.
- c. *Landscape restoration*: FAO initiatives have contributed to increasing soil stability, promoting water infiltration, preserving biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem services in both rural and urban areas.
- d. *Innovative solutions*: the potential of solar irrigation solutions has been elevated as a significant area for stakeholder engagement in five countries¹² in the Sahel, thanks to the collaboration between FAO and the International Water Management Institute on mapping solar irrigation potential and guiding stakeholders towards solar irrigation opportunities.
- e. *Evidence base*: a pioneering collection of accurate, comprehensive and harmonized data on land use and land use change ([Africa Open Data for Environment, Agriculture and Land \[D.E.A.L.\] and Africa's Great Green Wall](#)) was developed in partnership with Google, and released as a critical support tool for programming and policy decision-making.
- f. *Disaster risk management*: FAO's support has been instrumental in implementing national multi-hazard disaster risk management and preparedness and contingency plans, along with the generation and dissemination of timely data, evidence, and training on plant pest and diseases (such as desert locust and fall armyworm), and priority climatic hazards (floods, droughts and dry spells). This support has been provided to at-risk populations, helping to strengthen institutional capacities for managing risk and disasters and building resilience within local communities.

¹² Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger.

Regional Priority 4 -Building resilience, ending poverty

Programme Priority Areas (PPAs)	SDG Targets	Regional Areas of Emphasis
BL1: Gender equality and rural women's empowerment	2.3, 5.4, 5.a, 5.c	Gender and inclusion (cross-cutting)
BL2: Inclusive rural transformation	1.1, 8.3, 8.5,10.1, 10.2, 10.7, 14.b	Decent employment in agrifood systems
BL3: Agriculture and food emergencies	1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 16.1	Social protection for livelihoods and resilience
BL4: Resilient agrifood systems	1.3, 1.5, 2.4	Resilience of livelihoods to natural and man-made disasters African SIDS

14. Regional Priority 4 ensured leaving no one behind – supporting sustainable and resilient agricultural systems, while addressing inclusivity, youth and women empowerment, social protection, and crisis response and recovery, with focus on:

- a. *High-level policy dialogue*: FAO catalysed key stakeholder engagement on priorities for agrifood systems transformation in six African SIDS, resulting, for the first time, in an endorsed programme road map with six areas for priority action.
- b. *Youth empowerment*: FAO influenced youth-sensitive policy and planning in Rwanda (2023-2027 National Strategy for Youth Employment in Agrifood Systems¹³), South Africa (Youth Empowerment Strategy in Agriculture and Rural Development Sector¹⁴), strengthening an enabling environment for youth integration in the agricultural sector and local economies.
- c. *Decent employment*: a partnership between FAO and Wageningen University & Research led to a new [body of evidence](#) for policymakers and development actors on innovative technologies for child labour monitoring through blockchain technology, which is expected to catalyse planning for and investments in digitalization for child labour monitoring and remediation along agrifood value chains.
- d. *Social protection*: FAO supported ECOWAS to revise its social protection framework¹⁵ with lessons learned from COVID-19 responses and the AU protocol on social protection. This contributed to form the basis for the implementation of a joint ECOWAS/FAO work plan on social protection (2022-2024), which is expected to help the subregion towards more inclusive, effective and evidence-based social protection policies.
- e. *Evidence for emergency response, policy and programming*: Data in Emergencies (DIEM) assessments clarified the impacts of multiple shocks on agriculture, livelihoods, food security and markets, informing decision-making in 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. FAO Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)/Cadre Harmonisé (CH) assessments provided timely data on food security and nutrition, informing emergency responses and medium- and long-term policy and programming in support of agricultural livelihoods in 35 countries. Overall, FAO's humanitarian support enabled 19.6 million people to withstand crises.
- f. *Resilience measurement and good practices*: FAO enhanced evidence for improved programming on resilience through the identification and dissemination of good practices, including in climate resilience, conflict analysis, peace contribution,¹⁶ agropastoralist conflict, forced displacement, land tenure governance, natural resource management, women and youth empowerment, social cohesion approaches and technical diplomacy.¹⁷ Additionally, FAO

¹³ Draft awaiting validation..

¹⁴ Draft awaiting validation.

¹⁵ FAO. (forthcoming). A Social Protection Framework for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

¹⁶ FAO. 2023. *Sustaining peace in the Sahel and West Africa – Lessons learned and best practices from FAO Peacebuilding Fund projects*. Rome.

¹⁷ FAO. (forthcoming). *RAF stock take of conflict sensitivity and peace contribution in Africa*:

strengthened countries' capacities to measure their resilience in the context of the 3rd CAADP Biennial Review.

B. Accelerators, cross-cutting themes and partnerships

15. The region adopted an integrated approach to leverage the four accelerators across the Regional Priorities, including the following:
 - a. development of the West African Land Cover Reference System ([WALCRS](#))¹⁸ (*data*);
 - b. proof of concept for a digital platform for remote food inspection in ECOWAS (*technology*);
 - c. piloting new financial instruments and risk-sharing mechanisms (*innovation*);¹⁹ and
 - d. capacity development of key stakeholders²⁰ on conducive environment for sustainable agribusiness incubators (*complements*).
16. FAO continued to integrate **gender and youth** into all aspects of its work in the Africa region, including policy development and programme design:
 - a. Under the *Empowering women and boosting livelihoods through agricultural trade: Leveraging the AfCFTA*, in partnership with the International Trade Centre, FAO enhanced trade skills, investment readiness and business planning of over 310 women agripreneurs, promoting women-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises' participation in regional value chains.
 - b. FAO improved the capacities of at least 1000 youth-led agribusinesses in six countries²¹ in financial literacy, access to grants, technologies and markets. FAO facilitated youth's access to policy fora and processes through platforms and networks, digital campaigns and high-level events.
17. To further operationalize the principle of leaving no one behind, the Africa region contributed to the development of the global an inclusion framework, including a regional workshop and participation in the Global Think Lab on inclusivity. A compilation of success stories from Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Sierra Leone on inclusivity was developed in collaboration with HQ to inform mainstreaming and operationalizing inclusivity in FAO's programming.
18. FAO supported the strengthening of national statistical systems across the region resulting in a platform²² for senior officials of National Statistics Offices and Ministries of Agriculture of AU member countries for dialogue and guidance on the development, harmonization and improvement of food and agricultural statistics, ensuring comparability of SDG indicators. Critical technical support has been provided to countries on data processing, and/or analysis/design of the agricultural/livestock censuses or surveys.
19. Over the past biennium, FAO renewed or developed transformative partnerships with:
 - a. ARC, FARA, the Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO), and the Burkinabè Economic and Social Development Fund (FBDES), focusing on gender dimensions in climate action,

¹⁸ Di Gregorio, A., Mushtaq, F., Tchana, E., Aw, M., D'Annunzio, R., Muchoney, D., Mamane, B., Mahamane, M., Assoumana, B.T., Mimouni, M., Aube, E., Enaruvbe, G.O., Mensah, F., Bartel, P. and Henry, M. 2022. *West African Land Cover Reference System*. Rome, FAO, AGRHYMET, ECOWAS and OSS. Resulting from the partnership among FAO, AGRHYMET, ECOWAS, OSS and SERVIR WEST AFRICA with the pivotal contribution from the West Africa Regional Land Cover Land Use technical working group.

¹⁹ Guidelines for Mozambique building on example of the Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural lending.

²⁰ Ministries of Agriculture, financial institutions, the private sector and service providers from 12 countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe). FAO with AU/DREA.

²¹ Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Tunisia and Zambia.

²² Constituted during the 27th Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics.

capacity development for agricultural innovation systems, strengthening farmers' associations and enhancing employability in agrosilvipastoral value chains; and

- b. International Financial Institutions, such as the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank, addressing both urgent humanitarian needs and resilience and development challenges; FAO/AfDB supported five countries²³ to present their investment notes (Country Food and Agriculture Delivery Compacts) at the [Dakar 2 Summit](#).

20. Engagement with the private sector included flagship initiatives such as the “Africa Agribusiness Leadership Dialogue” (in 2022), resulting in private sector leaders' deliberations on key policy recommendations for agricultural trade, investment, finance and innovation.

21. Overall, in 2022-2023, FAO mobilized over USD 1.29 billion in the Africa region, exceeding the biennial target by 59 percent, with top priorities including Agriculture and Food Emergencies (BL3), Resilient agrifood systems (BL4), Climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood systems (BE1), Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources (BP4), Nutrition for the most Vulnerable (BN2), and Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture (BE3).

C. FAO's corporate initiatives, new ways of working

22. Since its launch in March 2022, the One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) Initiative gained 28 Members in the region, promoting 18 Special Agricultural Products. A Regional Organizing Group²⁴ was established for guidance, coordination, and advisory services. The Regional Knowledge Platform on [OCOP in Africa](#) is now functional. Funding from FAO Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs) and other sources have been catalytic for action on the ground and to stir interest of additional countries in joining the Initiative.

23. The Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative saw an increase in member countries from 25 to 35, resulting in investment plans now exceeding USD 12 billion. Initial investment by FAO through TCPs played a crucial role in providing technical support and coordination of investment plans. Overall, the HIH approach fostered country-led programming and enabled a needed shift from resource mobilization to investment facilitation.

24. In 2022, Liberia and Zimbabwe joined the nine country 1000 Digital Village Initiative (DVI).²⁵ A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Regional Office for Africa (RAF), FAO Niger, and FAO Nigeria for collaboration on digitalization and DVI activities. The DVI promoted digitalization's potential for food security and rural transformation, emphasizing synergies with local development priorities, FAO programmes and local stakeholders, notably public extension units and local entrepreneurs. A regional [report](#) covering country assessment studies and lessons learned has been released.

25. As part of the Green Cities Initiative and to follow up on the UN Food Systems Summit recommendations, FAO and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) have worked in partnership to initiate the process of establishing learning labs as coordination mechanisms for reinforcing urban food systems policies (“food labs”) in Kenya, Senegal and South Africa with the objective of identifying mechanisms to bridge the gaps between national and local governments.

26. Within the framework of the regional action plan (2022-2025) for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, RAF organized two regional side events to the global FAO Science and Innovation Fora focusing, respectively, on agricultural productivity and competitiveness (in 2022) and youth/women-led innovations for climate action (in 2023).

27. In addition to regional consultations on the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031, FAO has provided catalytic support to the inaugural Africa Climate Summit, including the Nairobi

²³ Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Niger and South Sudan.

²⁴ Bringing together FAO RAF, the private sector (the African Development Bank), research/ academia (FARA) and farmers representatives organization (PAFO).

²⁵ Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, and Zimbabwe,.

Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action and galvanized policy dialogue on post-COP 27 through the Regional Dialogue “Post-COP27 Opportunities for Joint Actions”.

One FAO

28. Within the biennium, significant gains have been achieved in enhancing coherence of programming, implementation and monitoring of the regional portfolio through:
- a. operationalization of cross-regional programme leadership teams;
 - b. alignment of strategic planning between subregional and regional offices;
 - c. support to the institutionalization of the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) function in subregional offices, with the development of regional and subregional MEL road maps; and
 - d. continued provision of technical and financial support to Members for developing Country Programming Frameworks in alignment with UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs), the FAO Strategic Framework, and Africa Regional Priorities.

Gaps and lessons learned

29. FAO Country Offices need to adapt quickly to new business models arising from the progressive transition to a programme approach and to the use of Operational Partners Implementation Modality. This highlights the importance of technical expertise and leadership at country level, and calls for the rethinking of approaches that are key to ensuring efficiency and accountability of FAO’s implementation, which involves external partners.
30. Engagement of consumers and stakeholders at all levels remains critical for strengthening national food control systems and progress to Malabo post-harvest loss targets. This requires appropriate consumer education and awareness programmes, as well as stakeholder advocacy on food safety hazards and risks, and safe food handling practices, to unlock gains in food security and reduce the negative impact of agriculture on climate footprint.
31. The right to adequate food, which FAO promotes, relates to consumer information about their dietary choices. The cost of healthy diets is on the rise and remains the major challenge impacting food affordability for the most vulnerable. Urbanization and the mushrooming of fast food chains is also fueling poor dietary choices, increasing the levels of overweight and obesity in African urban areas.
32. Strengthening collaboration between incubators, policymakers, industry and development partners is crucial to communicating the impact of agribusiness incubation effectively and avoiding duplication of efforts. Mechanisms for collaboration and experience exchange at subregional and continental levels are vital for boosting the entrepreneurial ecosystem in agribusiness.
33. Recognizing the private sector's unique role in innovation, trade, finance and investment, systematic efforts are needed to attract more private sector participation and initiate partnerships that address regional priorities through inclusive, need-driven and result-oriented approaches.
34. To meet the growing needs of African countries in digital agriculture, FAO must integrate digitalization across programme priorities and strengthen internal digital innovation support frameworks. Dedicated resource mobilization and technical partnerships with relevant institutions are essential.
35. The demand for data on SDG indicators surpasses countries' capacity to collect reliable statistics. Investment in strengthening capacities and statistical and monitoring evaluation systems at country, subregional and regional levels is essential to create a robust learning and accountability ecosystem around the SDGs.