



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

working for Zero Hunger



## 40 YEARS YOUNG AND STILL GROWING



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF  
COUNTRY REPRESENTATIONS IN  
NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

# FOREWORD

The history of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) is almost as old as the history of its global parent itself, as four of its countries were founding members back in 1945.

FAO country representation has spread gradually around the globe since then. NENA was one of the pioneers in welcoming the Organization's close partnership with governments in the region.

Forty years after the first country representation office opened in Lebanon, and FAO presence in the field has blossomed to reach fifteen countries.

FAO provides development assistance aimed at strengthening agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, improving nutrition, and reducing poverty. FAO focuses special attention on developing rural areas, home to 70 percent of the world's poor and hungry.

The NENA region encompasses countries that are vastly different in terms of wealth, population, and natural capital endowment but that face common problems and challenges.

Since its establishment, FAO has implemented and led thousands of acts of intervention, activities, and projects all aiming to enhance the prosperity of member countries, raise the standard of living of the people and sustainably manage the natural resources. There are dozens of success stories, big and small, testify to what FAO and member countries have achieved together.

FAO's work today and local actions are more than ever aligned with host government priorities to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A lot has been achieved, but there is still work ahead. Hunger and malnutrition remain critical barriers to sustainable development, with nearly 815 million people suffering from hunger worldwide in 2016, of which 40.2 million people are in the NENA region.

Food and agriculture can contribute extensively to achieving the SDGs. FAO itself to support the member countries in achieving the SDGs and is working closely with UN agencies towards this endeavor.

The SDGs are beyond any of us individually, but not all of us together. They demand action by everyone and call for new ways of working together. Partnership, solidarity, and a willingness to come together across geographies, sectors, professions, and disciplines are key enablers. FAO is committed to continuing to work together and enhancing the special relationship with its member countries through FAO representation to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.



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## **40 YEARS YOUNG AND STILL GROWING**

In the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region, nine country representations are commemorating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary between 2017 and 2019: Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, the Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Throughout the past 40 years, FAO has been committed to long-term sustainable development in the region, in cooperation with host country governments.

This photo album will take you through the journey of FAO's work in the field as well as its policy-level achievements.

# 1977

- JORDAN
- LEBANON
- SUDAN

# 1978

- EGYPT
- IRAN
- MAURITANIA
- SYRIA

# 1979

- IRAQ
- YEMEN

Throughout the last 40 years, FAO has been working on a large range of agricultural and rural development activities targeting Egypt's specific needs with a focus on policy and institutional development.

Going ahead with this partnership, FAO is working together with Egypt to improve agricultural productivity to enhance its food security through the sustainable use of natural agricultural resources.



1945 Egypt joins FAO as a founding member.

1952 Egypt hosts the Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa.

1978 FAO and Egypt sign an agreement to establish a country Representation in Cairo.

1989 FAO assists Egypt in developing a Central Laboratory for Agricultural Expert Systems to become a resource for the production of future expert systems packages.

1996 FAO assists the policy formulation and demonstration of sustainable reuse of wastewater in agriculture.

2000 The organisation introduces two information management system networks aimed at improving the agricultural advisory services provided to Egyptian farmers, to increase food and agricultural production.

1945

1952

1978

1989

1996

2000



**1998 - Nursery worker adjusting a sprinkler irrigation system in a greenhouse of cypress seedlings, using underground water in desert lands.**

©FAO/Rosetta Messori



**2016 - Training farmers on the detection of pests and diseases of date palm trees in the Bahriya and Kharga Oases.**

©FAO/ Egypt



**2018 - Sun drying tomatoes by local women in Luxor as part of FAO activities on reducing food loss along the tomato value chain.**

©FAO/ Egypt

FAO establishes an Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases in Cairo, to assist the Egyptian government in detecting and controlling highly pathogenic avian influenza.

A programme launches to predict and mitigate impacts of climate change on agricultural production and the environment along the coastal areas of the Nile Delta.

A Dates Value Chain Development project aims at building the capacity of small and medium-sized farmers, date collectors, traders, packers and processors to improve the quantity and quality of date production in Egypt.

FAO organizes the Agriculture Investment Forum for promoting investment opportunities in Egypt's agricultural sector, and in particular, ways to make the sector more efficient and sustainable.

2007

2010

2016

2017

Throughout the years, FAO's assistance in Iran aimed at helping to enable food security while safeguarding the country's natural resources and reinforcing its institutional capacities.

FAO interventions have focused on policy and technical assistance in promoting sustainable development of the country's agriculture and rural sectors. In the coming years, FAO will focus on the development of sustainable small-scale agriculture based on agro-ecological approaches and climate-smart agriculture.



2015 – FAO has helped rural families in Kerman Province of Iran to establish forest nurseries in their backyard farms, contributing to forest rehabilitation activities.

©FAO/Mehdi Ansari Jovini

Iran joins FAO as an active member.

FAO and Iran sign an agreement to establish a country Representation in Tehran.

FAO launches the "Fisheries Development Project" that aims at strengthening the national capability of increasing fisheries production.

1953

1978

1985





**2003 - A National Project Coordinator demonstrating integrated pest management techniques to farmers in a greenhouse run by FAO in Tarand village 35km southeast of Teheran.**

*©FAO/Kai Wiedenhofer*



**2015 - Students from neighboring countries receive trainings under the FAO South-South Cooperation on sustainable agriculture at Imam Khomein Higher Education Centre.**

*©FAO/Mehdi Ansari Jovini*



**2016 - FAO's international forestry experts working with national professionals towards strengthening the resilience of Caspian forests to Boxwood Blight disease and developing a National Forest Monitoring System for the country.**

*©FAO/Mehdi Ansari Jovini*

The organization hosts an expert consultation to study the feasibility of establishing a Date Palm Network for technical co-operation.

**1999**

FAO Implements the "Regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme" to monitor tomato pests and develop guidelines for pest detection and control.

**2012**

FAO establishes a project to improve agricultural monitoring systems to achieve sustainable agricultural development through satellite imagery.

**2017**

# CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN IRAQ

Over the past 40 years, FAO's interventions in Iraq have focused on policy development, increasing investment projects and providing technical assistance in the agriculture sector and food security.

Due to the protracted conflict and ongoing economic crisis in Iraq, FAO is focusing on meeting its humanitarian needs.

In the coming years, FAO will focus on transitioning Iraq towards recovery and resilience, including restoring the agriculture sector.



2017 - Workers load bags of fertilizer onto a farmer's vehicle at the Ministry of Agriculture warehouse in Alqosh District as part of FAO's project to increase the yield of winter wheat crops.

©FAO/Iraq

Iraq joins FAO as a founding member.

FAO and Iraq sign an agreement to establish a country Representation in Amman.

FAO conducts a Food Supply and Nutrition Assessment in Iraq jointly by FAO and WFP.

FAO Establishes "Craft Projects" to create job opportunities and increase income levels for households in targeted communities by supporting small cottage industries.

1945

1979

1997

2004



**2016** – Participants in FAO's Cash for Work initiative clean the main Al Jazeera irrigation canal in Rabiya District, Ninewa Governorate, as part of a project to resupply water for agricultural production for the first time since the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) took the area in 2014.

©FAO/CengizYar



**2017** - Mariam Majeed Aziz and her son Abdul Khader at their house in Mala Omar Village receiving hens and poultry feeding, as part of FAO's work to improve rural livelihoods, nutrition and food security for refugees, internally displaced persons and vulnerable host households in Dohuk and Erbil governorates affected by the current crisis.

©FAO/Cengiz Yar

The launch of a Cash for Work initiative, aims at providing income support to poor and vulnerable households while rehabilitating land and agricultural infrastructure in Iraq.

**2014**

FAO scales-out an emergency animal health campaign, vaccinating almost 1 million sheep, goats, cattle and buffalos.

**2017**

The organisation announces "Iraq's Recovery and Resilience Programme 2018–2019", which offers Iraq the required humanitarian needs while transitioning towards recovery and resilience.

**2018**



## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN JORDAN

Since Jordan joined the organisation, FAO assistance has focused on the development of the country's agriculture and rural sector. The crisis in Syria has deeply affected the entire sub-region, and FAO has been helping Jordan to respond to the impact of the crisis on food security, nutrition, agriculture and livelihoods.

Recently, FAO assisted Jordan in disaster preparedness and response in the agriculture sector. The framework focuses on sustainable development and use of natural resources, including water, land, range and forests; resilience of rural and peri-urban livelihoods; and competitiveness of agricultural products in domestic and export markets, also aimed at achieving inclusive growth and employment.



1987 – A farmer preparing the land for the planting of chickpeas, a highly nutritious crop for year-round grazing legume that thrives in semi-arid regions with wet winters and long, dry summers and returns year-after-year without replanting.

©FAO/Florita Botts

1977 FAO and Jordan sign an agreement to establish a country office.

1986 FAO develops hides, skins and animals byproducts.

1992 The organisation provides emergency assistance to farmers affected by severe snow, frost and flood damage.

1997 FAO introduces the date palm plantation in Geigera governorate to improve the overall health and nutrition of the population, increase family income through job creation, protect the environment and promote water preservation.

1977

1986

1992

1997



1998 - A farmer inspecting his thyme plants in a greenhouse. The farmer was a past beneficiary of a loan programme presented by the Agricultural Credit Corporation Programme with the assistance of FAO to enhance rural banking services.

©FAO/Jon Spaul



2014 – Family farmers harvesting onions in a field in Dear Alla, 50 kilometers west of Amman, as part of FAO's work to build the capacities of farmers and achieve sustainable intensification of crop production by enhancing agro-biodiversity and maintaining pesticides related risks.

©FAO/Mazraawi

FAO supports a forest policy and strategy.

2004

FAO develops a national drought mitigation strategy.

2005

FAO facilitated the signature of a South-South Cooperation agreement between Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

2010

Jordan's country office upgrades to full representation.

2015



## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN LEBANON

Over the past 40 years, FAO assistance has focused on the promotion of sustainable development of the agriculture sector, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant ministries.

More recently, in the context of the crisis in Syria, FAO has been supporting the coordination and planning of humanitarian assistance to Lebanon.

Moving forward, FAO and Lebanon will be working hand-in-hand for expanding opportunities for the benefit of local economies and the most vulnerable communities and improving the performance of the agriculture sector.



2015 - FAO introducing the production of Quinoa in Lebanon.  
@FAO/Lebanon

FAO and Lebanon sign an agreement to establish a country Representation in Beirut.

1977

FAO develops the "Agriculture of development and Reconstruction" Study that served for many years as a reference for programming of projects relating to agriculture, forests and fisheries.

1980

The organisation supports the Agricultural Census, funded by the World Bank, to provide more reliable and accurate data and statistics.

1998



**During the Civil War - Emergency assistance for farmers being delivered at one of the Lebanese Ports. The FAO office in Lebanon remained fully active throughout the Civil War.**

*©FAO/Kai Wiedenhofer*



**1995 - FAO checks the radioactivity of imported cattle at the port of Beirut.**

*©FAO/Roberto Faidutti*



**2014 - FAO implements a vaccination campaign that covered 95 percent of livestock in Lebanon.**

*©FAO/Lebanon*

The Government of Lebanon generously hosts the 25th Session of FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC25) in Beirut.

**2000**

FAO launches the "40 Million Trees Programme", also known as Lebanon's National Afforestation and Reforestation Plan.

**2012**

FAO conducts a nationwide livestock vaccination campaign covering up to 95 percent of cattle, sheep and goats in Lebanon.

**2014**

An agreement is signed for FAO's new Subregional Office for the Mashreq Countries in Beirut, serving Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Iran, in addition to Lebanon.

**2016**



## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN MAURITANIA

Since 1978, FAO's interventions in Mauritania have focused on promoting rural and peri-urban economies and trade as well as building resilience for food security and nutrition.

Due to the country's structural food deficits, FAO works to improve agriculture and livestock production by distributing much-needed inputs, focusing on livestock health and training on agricultural techniques.



2009 - A woman in Mauritania receives a goat through FAO's Cash+ programme, which provides vulnerable women and households with unconditional cash transfers and in-kind livestock inputs to help them recover from and become resilient to emergency situations.

©FAO/Aissata Lam

Mauritania joins FAO as an active member.

FAO and Mauritania sign an agreement to establish a country Representation.

FAO's Emergency Centre for Locust Operations (ECLLO) mobilises international assistance to combat an upsurge of the desert locust.

Under the Programme for Integrated Development of Artisanal Fisheries in West Africa (IDAF), FAO assists the Government in utilising the tons of mullet dumped on the coast.

1961

1978

1993

1997





**1990- FAO Dune Fixation and Stabilization Project helped fight against desertification in Mauritania, especially where sand dunes encroach upon agricultural land.**

*©FAO/Roberto Faidutti*



**2004- A swarm of desert locusts filling the sky near farmlands in Mauritania. FAO's Emergency Centre for Locust Operations have implemented control operations to limit the spread and harm of desert locusts.**

*©FAO/Giampiero Diana*



**2017- A camel being milked by a dairy farmer who is participating in FAO's project to support cheese production from camel in Mauritania.**

*©FAO/Ivo Balderi*

A joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission visits Mauritania and announces an action program to monitor the Desert Locust outbreak and an emergency intervention in outbreaks of Rift Valley Fever.

**2001**

In partnership with UN partners, FAO dispatches a three-year Regional Strategic Response Plan to provide aid to millions of people in nine countries in Africa's Sahel region, including Mauritania.

**2014**

FAO and Mauritania implement an integrated pest management strategy that had farmers and farmer cooperatives at the core of the Red Palm Weevil control efforts. FAO develops a regional programme to strengthen livelihoods and contribute to resilience building, focusing on Chad and Mauritania.

**2016**

FAO supports the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform to set up a national agriculture sector coordination mechanism.

**2017**

Over the past 40 years, FAO's interventions in Sudan have focused on policy development, enhancing agricultural productivity, protection of natural resources, and disaster risk management.

As a response to an unstable agriculture sector, FAO is supporting efforts to increase short-term food production, while building the foundations of longer-term food security.

Moving forward, FAO in the Sudan will invest in safeguarding and restoring livelihoods and building resilience.



2011 – FAO assisting, restoring and improving the food security and livelihoods of vulnerable households in North and West Darfur States through protection of assets, distribution of high quality seeds to aid them in cultivating additional land and increase vegetable crop yields.

©FAO/Ulrich Sparre

Sudan joins FAO as a founding member.

1956

The first FAO and WFP project in New Halfa where almost 42 000 internally displaced people (IDP) resettle and receive food assistance.

1963

FAO and Sudan sign an agreement to establish a Country Representation in Khartoum.

1977

FAO publishes a special report on the famine in parts of the Sudan.

1998



**1977 – A worker spraying a mango tree attacked by termites. Under the "Protection of Fruit Tree Plantations" Programme, FAO assisted the Government of Sudan in an emergency spraying programme aimed at the eradication of pests and diseases.**

©FAO/Franco Mattioli



**2012 - FAO's vaccination and treatment campaign for livestock belonging to some of the most vulnerable people living in Darfur.**

©FAO/Sudan

The "Sudan Land Programme" starts and implements activities to support the transition from emergency to development programming.

**2007**

FAO provides emergency support to reintegrate returnees and IDPs host communities in the Sudan.

**2011**

FAO supports dialogue and negotiation between communities leading to an official peace agreement amongst the tribes.

**2016**

FAO launches a third and final vaccination campaign for more than 118 000 livestock.

**2017**



# CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN SYRIA

Over 40 years of significant cooperation have produced notable results in the Syrian agriculture sector. Since the beginning of the crisis, however, given the staggering number of food-insecure people in the country, FAO has shifted the focus of its support from technical assistance to resilience building for food and nutrition security

In light of the current humanitarian crisis affecting Syria, FAO's work has been and will continue capitalizing on building the resilience of the rural and peri-urban populations to strengthen their capacity to absorb, adapt to and recover sustainably from the impacts of the conflict.



1979 - Harvesting a good crop of dwarf beans in plastic greenhouses constructed at El Hannade and Amrit, to demonstrate out-of-season production of vegetables that previously were imported at very high prices.  
©FAO/Florita Botts

FAO and Syria strengthen their partnership with the opening of an FAO Representation.

1978

FAO assists Syria in improving the national fish production, aquaculture production and fisheries management.

1983

The organisation develops policies and actions for improving irrigation efficiency and introducing new irrigation technologies such as drip and sprinkler networks to Syrian farmers.

1995

FAO partners with the Syrian Government in establishing a National Agricultural Policy Center in Syria that acts as an autonomous policy support institution.

2000

Following the third consecutive drought in Syria, FAO supports the government's efforts through a drought response plan to restore food production and to safeguard agricultural livelihoods.

2009



**1992 - Biological Pest Control in Citrus to increase the supply of high quality citrus and its export through the development of biological pest control techniques.**

©FAO/Roberto Faidutti



**2015 - Since the beginning of the crisis, FAO supported more than 1.4 million livestock owners to increase their livestock assets and improve their production of meat and dairy for their own consumption. The national animal health campaign has vaccinated more than 11 million heads of sheep, cattle and goats against contagious diseases in 11 Syrian governorates.**

©FAO/Tahseen Ayyash



**2017 - Training schoolchildren, between 6-12 years old, and teachers in schools on the concept of nutrition sensitive agriculture in order to transfer this knowledge year-after-year to schoolchildren.**

©FAO/Wajdi Al Skaf

First Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission after the onset of conflicts is undertaken jointly by FAO and World Food Programme, usually for emergencies related to agricultural production or overall food availability problems.

**2013**

FAO launches the strategy and action plan: Resilient Livelihoods for Agriculture and food and nutrition security in areas affected by the Syria crisis.

**2014**

FAO conducts an emergency market mapping and analysis for Southern Syria in collaboration with CARE, Norwegian Refugee Council and United Muslim Relief.

**2015**

FAO supports the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform to set up a national agriculture sector coordination mechanism.

**2017**



## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN YEMEN

During the past 40 years, FAO has assisted in strengthening the sustainable development of the country's food and agriculture sector, including natural resource management and use.

With the escalation of conflict since March 2014, FAO has been responding to the humanitarian crisis through emergency and agricultural and livelihood assistance that is being delivered to protect and build the resilience of vulnerable communities.



1985 - Irrigation using cuvette to retain water by the small dike as part of the technical solutions to intensify agricultural production by improving agricultural practices, increasing water for irrigation and intensifying inputs.

©FAO/Jeanette Van Acker

1979 - FAO establishes its office in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen before the country's unification.

1990 - Cooperation strengthens by signing an agreement to establish a country Representation in Yemen.

2006 - Sanaa hosts the 28th Session of FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC25).

2007 - FAO launches a program on Strengthening the capacities of the Central Veterinary Laboratory for rapid diagnosis of Avian Influenza in support of field surveillance activities.

1979

1990

2006

2007



**1995 –** Implanting *Desmostachya* plant since its roots hold the soil in place, prevents erosion, and helps in strengthening and expanding sand dune stabilization.

©FAO/Rosetta Messori



**2017 –** Female workers prepare raw milk for selling at the local market as part of FAO's work to enhance the resilience and self-reliance of crisis-affected rural communities through support to livelihoods stabilization and recovery.

©FAO/Moayeda Alshabani



**2018 -** Training farmers on good agricultural practices aiming at sustaining water resources in Sana'a basin through Farmer Field Schools.

©FAO/Soliman Ahmed

The organisation supports the national prevention, early warning and rapid response to the virulent Wheat Rust Disease.

**2009**

FAO adapts an Integrated Pest Management intervention to decrease the use of pesticides and aims at ensuring sustainable food production.

**2014**

FAO institutes an Emergency Livelihoods Response Plan for scaling up the response to prevent the already dramatic levels of food insecurity and malnutrition from worsening.

**2017**

FAO announces a three-year Plan of Action to make a significant contribution towards improving food security and nutrition and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable people in the country.

**2018**

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