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IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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FOREWORD

The year 2020 was undoubtedly one of the most challenging in the recent history of Latin America and the Caribbean.

FAO had to work hard to meet the priorities set by Member Countries, and also had to concentrate all its capacities to deal with the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Organization worked hand in hand with all its partners to preserve the functioning of the agrifood system, which is key to feeding not only the region, but millions of people around the world.

But even considering the difficulties due to the pandemic, in 2020 the joint work of countries and FAO produced outstanding results.

FAO mobilised USD 194.8 million in voluntary contributions in support of 80 new projects, implemented 377 regional projects, and 18 global and interregional projects. The total budget of these projects reached USD 684 million.

The 2020 Regional Conference had the largest political participation and audience in its history: 32 000 people followed the live events.

Haiti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru joined FAO's Hand-in-Hand initiative.

FAO supported countries to secure USD 185 million for Green Climate Fund (GCF) projects in Argentina, Colombia, Cuba and Guatemala, with a focus on supporting vulnerable women and indigenous communities, benefiting 168 000 people, as well as mitigating emissions of 28.4 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

In terms of communication, FAO saw a 30 percent increase in press appearances in the region's leading media, and website visits grew by 39 percent.

These results, which are just a small sample of our work, show that even in the darkest of times, we can move together towards better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life.

REGIONAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

FAO's support to the responses implemented by the countries focused on:

- i) Delivering sound data and analysis to decision-makers, as well as evidence on policy measures to keep food systems alive during a pandemic.
- ii) Supporting food security, nutrition and livelihoods of the most vulnerable, ensuring purchasing power and expanding social protection systems.
- iii) Supporting food supply systems, working with market actors and national, provincial and local governments.
- iv) Promoting exchanges on COVID-19 response policies among countries.

At the regional level, FAO supported coordinated responses through high-level dialogues that enabled governments to address major disruptions in food supply chains, trade, availability and access to food, and to share best practices.

Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture of the 33 Member Countries, the United States of America and Canada, convened in two Hemispheric Meetings, with the support of FAO and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), took the unprecedented initiative to coordinate their actions to ensure food security.

Twenty-six countries signed a ministerial declaration pledging to keep the public informed of the measures taken, and to continue to ensure sufficient, safe and nutritious food supplies.

FAO supported the Regional Agricultural Market Intelligence and Monitoring System (SIMMAGRO), which made it possible to coordinate a regional response in the area of trade policy.

Nearly 1 000 private companies participated in the business roundtables organised by FAO in partnership with multiple international organisations, reaching agreements for commercial intentions worth USD 16 million. The following participated in these events: the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA, by its acronym in Spanish), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Iberian Society for the Study and Conservation of Ecosystems (SIECE, by its acronym in Spanish), and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI, by its acronym in Spanish).

Technical experts, former presidents from Chile, Colombia and Mexico, and former environment ministers from Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Peru exchanged experiences and ideas on post-COVID-19 recovery through webinars that reached more than 100 000 people across the region. Concrete proposals for economic recovery and climate transformation in response to the pandemic included generating new jobs through ecosystem restoration, climate-smart livestock, digital marketing for cooperatives, and modernising wholesale and retail markets.

FAO also provided data and information for sound policy formulation: the regional bulletin *Food Systems and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean*, published in collaboration with ECLAC, delivered an analysis of the impact of the pandemic and the measures taken by governments, as well as proposals and recovery plans to 12 000 weekly readers.

FAO produced 14 working papers in the series *The agrifood system and the challenges of COVID-19*, which provided analysis and strategies to reduce the impact of the pandemic on the agrifood sector, nutrition and feeding.

Despite the closure of all FAO offices in Latin America and the Caribbean since the start of the pandemic, FAO adapted quickly to the new conditions and resource deployment increased by 9 percent in Central America and 15 percent in the Caribbean, although it decreased by 11 percent in South America. In the region as a whole, there was only a one percentage point decrease compared to 2019. This was made possible by the rapid adoption of digital working methods, including support to field projects, for example through digital capacity building for farmers.

At the country level, FAO applied a revised methodology for remote data collection to conduct rapid assessments in 19 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The Organization also generated information on the impact of COVID-19 on agricultural production and agricultural livelihoods.

FAO supported mitigation and early response measures, protected agricultural production and livelihood resilience, and helped define post-COVID-19 recovery strategies. Examples include emergency distribution of inputs (short-cycle seeds), technical support to producers in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; technical support to Haiti's Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development and distribution of seeds to vulnerable farmers; emergency social protection measures and distribution of inputs in El Salvador; access to rural services and economic inclusion of family farmers in Ecuador – including upgrading technical assistance to enterprises and establishing credit facilities for climate-smart livestock producers; defining recovery strategies that secure food production and supply and give a prominent role to agriculture in Mexico and Panama; or address anticipated changes in the supply chain in Dominica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.



36TH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The 36th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean – which took place from 19–21 October 2020, hosted by Nicaragua – was the first to be held virtually, and had the highest participation ever in the region.

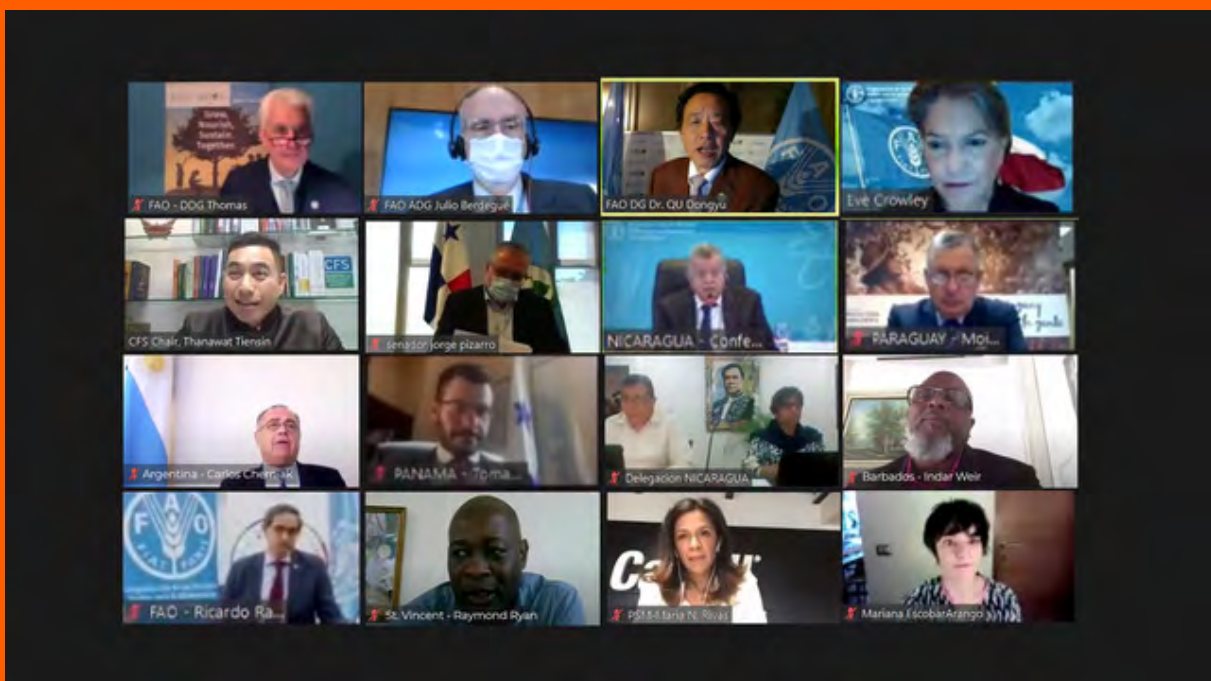
The Conference was attended by 545 participants from 33 Member States, including one Prime Minister, two Vice-Presidents of the Republic, 92 Ministers and Vice-Ministers, and 14 Ambassadors.

It was also attended by observers and representatives of UN agencies, intergovernmental organisations, civil society organisations, Parliamentary Fronts Against Hunger, private sector organisations, and scientific and academic organisations.

The Conference also had an unprecedented impact on the general public: FAO Representatives gave 25 interviews to top-tier media in the region, the Director-General’s opinion column was published by 11 media, and during the three days of the Conference, 88 articles mentioned the Conference in Latin America and Caribbean top-tier media. An average of 10 000 people followed the online Conference each day.

FAO Member States in the region set three priorities for FAO’s action over the next two years:

- 1) Sustainable food systems to provide healthy diets for all;
- 2) Hand-in-Hand to achieve prosperous and inclusive rural societies;
- 3) Sustainable and resilient agriculture.



REGIONAL INITIATIVE 1: SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS TO PROVIDE HEALTHY DIETS FOR ALL

During 2020, FAO worked with countries in the region to strengthen food systems and make them more sustainable, so that they can provide sufficient healthy, safe, diverse and high-nutritional value food.

The Organization also worked with multiple partners to address the disruptions in the food system resulting from the pandemic, and to facilitate access to healthy diets for all.





1. FOOD MARKET AND TRADE INNOVATION

Modernisation of wholesale markets

The Latin American Federation of supply markets (FLAMA, by its acronym in Spanish) and FAO worked together to stimulate the transition of wholesale markets and food supply centres towards a condition of economic, social and environmental sustainability, enhancing their impact on agrifood systems.

To achieve this goal, they promoted a series of measures:

- Three Communities of Practice held 12 meetings with 591 technicians, operational agents, experts and academics from 19 countries. Representatives from 60 wholesale markets from 19 countries in the region attended and exchanged experiences.
- Elaboration of agendas/strategies to prevent contagion, improve capacities and strengthen wholesale markets in Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Chile.
- Five videos with recommendations for self-care and cleanliness in wholesale markets were produced in Spanish, English, Portuguese and French. These were aimed at traders, consumers and other service providers.
- Compilation of information from 93 markets in 17 countries, the results of which were disseminated through five bulletins in the Series *Wholesale markets. Action against COVID-19*.

Value chains in Small Island Developing States

FAO formed national teams from ministries of agriculture to implement the value chain approach in Barbados, Belize and Jamaica. These teams prepared strategies and work plans to improve the performance of chains with high market potential and nutritional value, such as tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) (Belize), sweet potato and honey (Barbados), and ginger and turmeric (Jamaica). Based on this experience, the approach is being expanded to five other Caribbean countries.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise of Belize initiated the implementation of a private sector-led business plan as part of its tilapia chain upgrading strategy. This has resulted in an increase in sales by small-scale tilapia farmers to formal markets (two wholesalers and one supermarket); an increase in revenue for the Ministry's Tilapia Hatchery Centre; and the development of a national tilapia brand and packaging.

FAO supported the Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (JACRA) to apply the value chain approach to the development of the herbs and spices (ginger and turmeric) industry. This resulted in business models starting to be implemented through public-private partnerships with very good prospects for expansion to other domestic products with high market potential.

Trade

FAO provided support to the public sector, the private sector and regional bodies to analyse and improve trade policies during the COVID-19 crisis and promote food trade, avoiding disruptions in food flows.

Upon the initiative of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), FAO prepared a document on the state of intra-regional trade.



2. POLICY DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR HEALTHY DIETS

Policies to eliminate overweight and obesity

- FAO supported the development and revision of food guides in Costa Rica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. The Organization also promoted a strategy for their effective implementation, and held a virtual seminar with the participation of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico, which provided policy recommendations to guarantee the right to healthy food.
- To strengthen food and nutrition education strategies, FAO analysed the capacities of schools in El Salvador through five workshops. In Colombia, FAO worked with the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (*Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar*) on an information and communication strategy on food and nutrition security; the First Lady of Colombia participated in its launch.
- FAO launched the Technical Cooperation Programme “*Innovaciones de la sociedad civil (consumidores) y del sector privado para promover el consumo de alimentos saludables y enfrentar el sobrepeso y la obesidad en América del Sur*” (Innovations of civil society (consumers) and the private sector to promote healthy food consumption and face overweight and obesity in

South America) in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Uruguay.

- + FAO systematised innovative public and/or private policy instruments that promote healthy food consumption to tackle overweight and obesity in each of the seven countries.
- + Together with *Consumers International*, FAO conducted national dialogues with public, private and civil society actors, and a regional dialogue with international participants.
- FAO published *Combate contra la obesidad y sobrepeso - Iniciativas del sector privado en América Latina y el Caribe* (Combating obesity and overweight-Private sector initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean); this publication reviews ten private initiatives highlighted by the region’s agrifood sector associations, with good practices, gaps and lessons learned.
- In collaboration with the Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology (INTA, by its acronym in Spanish) of Universidad de Chile, FAO developed the study *The impact of the Chilean Law on Food Labelling on the food production sector*, which evaluates four aspects of the response of the food production sector in Chile in relation to the implementation of the Law on Food Labelling: i) attitudes of the main actors in the food sector, ii) food reformulation, iii) use of labels as a marketing strategy; iv) and impact on economic variables of the manufacturing and commercial sector. This analysis is a considerable input for the discussion on front-of-package food labelling regulations that is taking place in the region.

Gender

- FAO continued to support the adoption and implementation of multisectoral public policies with a gender approach against malnutrition, favouring the development of healthy food systems and environments in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

- FAO provided technical support to the development of sex-disaggregated data and information in the assessment of the impacts of COVID-19 on food security, agricultural production and livelihoods in the Caribbean. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia and the Dominican Republic generated gender-sensitive data and information as a basis for the development and improvement of public policies for the reduction of malnutrition in the context of COVID-19.

- FAO provided support for the integration of the gender approach in the Normative framework to promote and strengthen rural economy and family farming in the Andean region (*Marco Normativo para Promover y Fortalecer la Economía Campesina y la Agricultura Familiar en la Región Andina*) of the Andean Parliament (PARLANDINO) and in the Model Law on Climate Change and Food and Nutrition Security of the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO), approved in May 2020 and February 2021, respectively.

Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020

This flagship publication of the Regional Office called for new policies and investments to be focused on lagging territories in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the highest levels of malnutrition are found.

The Panorama 2020 was produced together with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

The launch was attended by 2 170 people, 3.1 million people saw the messages on Twitter, 3 007 people visited the publication's website, and 91 top-tier media published releases on the report.

Parliamentary Front Against Hunger

During 2020, with technical support from FAO, the Parliamentary Fronts Against Hunger advocated in 21 national congresses and four regional parliaments.

In the midst of the pandemic crisis, members of the Front and its partners signed an open letter to decision-makers to consider the protection of the right to food as one of the emergency measures.

This pluralistic network of nearly 500 members of parliaments contributed to the adoption of 16 laws and the formulation and defence of 25 bills at the national level, most notably:

- Organic law on school feeding in Ecuador
- Law on agricultural credit in Paraguay
- Local public procurement law in Colombia
- Bill to regulate sanitary conditions for the operation of free fairs in Chile

Besides, the regional parliaments PARLATINO, PARLANDINO and the Mercosur Parliament (PARLASUR) adopted six legislative frameworks and declarations linked to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2-Zero Hunger (SDG 2) in the context of pandemic, among which the following stand out:

- PARLATINO and FAO joint declaration "Family farming in the context of COVID-19" (*La agricultura familiar en contexto de COVID-19*) in May 2020;
- PARLATINO and FAO joint declaration "Increase responsible investment in agriculture and food systems in the face of the COVID-19 crisis" in August 2020;
- Normative framework to promote and strengthen rural economy and family farming in the Andean region (*Marco Normativo para Promover y Fortalecer la Economía Campesina y la Agricultura Familiar en la Región Andina*) of PARLANDINO in May 2020;

- PARLASUR declaration on the occasion of the World Food Day of October 2020.

With the support of FAO, seven legal notes were drafted and submitted to 21 national congresses and four regional parliaments, mainly addressed to the Parliamentary Fronts Against Hunger with recommendations on SDG 2.

The Fronts initiated a series of regional public videoconferences called “Zero Hunger Parliamentary Sessions” to foster exchange among legislators in the region and mobilise concrete agreements for 2021 around SDG 2 in times of pandemic.

Besides, they facilitated working partnerships with the World Rural Forum, the Ibero-American General Secretariat, the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly and the Spanish General Courts.

The Latin America and the Caribbean Right to Food Observatory launched 16 new studies linked to SDG 2 and the challenges of post-COVID-19 recovery. This

research will support the work of the Parliamentary Front during 2021. It is worth noting that to achieve the above, the Fronts participated in more than 60 national, regional and global videoconferences in order to generate political dialogue and exchange of experiences on SDG 2. These activities were widely attended by the parliaments of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, PARLASUR and PARLATINO.

More than 80 parliamentary advisors from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, and representatives of PARLATINO, PARLANDINO, PARLASUR and the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) participated in the FAO course on how to improve the impact of state policies for the achievement of SDG 2.

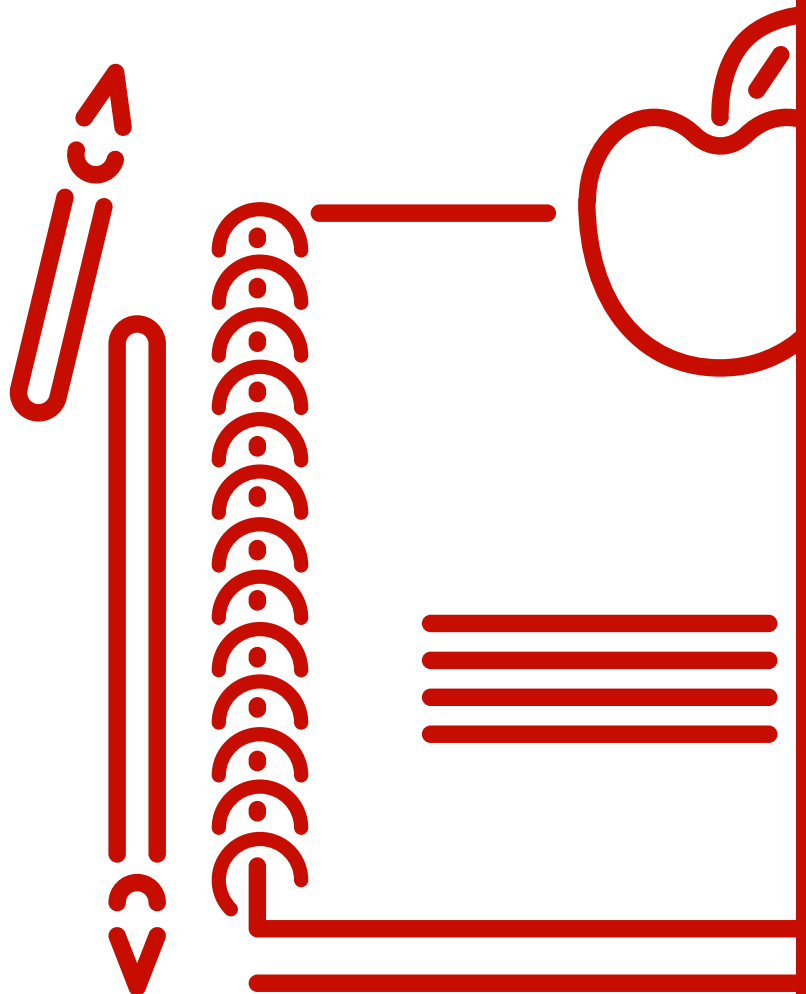




3. SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMMES

- FAO provided assistance to countries to maintain the functioning of School Feeding Programmes (SFP) during the pandemic, supporting the delivery of rations, food baskets and food kits in countries such as Chile, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.
- In nine Caribbean countries (Belize, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago), FAO trained SFP technical managers.
- Three countries in South and Central America (Colombia, Guatemala and Peru) received the virtual course “School feeding as an educational strategy for a healthy life”, training 2 100 school feeding managers and technicians.
- FAO supported the Sustainable School Feeding Network (RAES, by its acronym in Spanish), which is now operational in 24 countries.
- FAO provided technical assistance for the construction of El Salvador’s healthy and sustainable school feeding strategy.
- FAO worked with 11 countries (Belize, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) to incorporate the Sustainable Schools methodology, delivering hygiene and food supply kits to 400 schools.

- In Panama, FAO worked to improve the infrastructure of four schools that are part of the “Study Without Hunger” programme.
- FAO launched a new pilot project to include gastronomy in SFP in Colombia and Guatemala, based on the experience of the Gastronomic Laboratory of the Chilean National Board of School Aid and Grants (JUNAEB, by its acronym in Spanish). In these countries, a “before and after” design study was conducted, in which children in one school of each country received a school menu modified by SFP food handlers who were trained by a professional chef. Culinary techniques were included to increase the acceptability of the menu while decreasing food loss and waste.





4. FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

FAO supported the *#SinDesperdicio* (NoWaste) platform, PARLATINO, and the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger to increase the efficiency of agrifood systems by reducing food loss and waste (FLW).

FAO promoted dialogue and exchange of experiences between enterprises (small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and multinationals) and public institutions on aspects of quantification, sustainability and circularity, knowledge generation and analysis on issues of technological innovation and cross-sectoral collaboration across the region.

- On 29 September 2020, the first International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste was celebrated, with activities organised by FAO offices in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Mexico and Nicaragua.
- FAO analysed 70 legal frameworks in 13 countries of the region (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay) that promote aspects of prevention and reduction of FLW. This regulatory analysis was a key input that allowed the Organization to provide technical assistance to PARLATINO for the development of a model law for the prevention and reduction of FLW.

- FAO established, for the first time, a public-private partnership with the Argentinean retail sector for the monitoring of surpluses, shrinking and waste, in collaboration with the *Consumer Goods Forum*, the IDB, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, the non-profit organisation GS1, and the consulting firm *WeTeam*.

- As part of the *#SinDesperdicio* (No Waste) platform, FAO participated in two innovation competitions, *#SinDesperdicioMexico* and *#SinDesperdicioCentroAmerica*, in which more than 250 initiatives participated and ten were the winners. As recognition, they received financial and technological resources to promote programmes linked to the reduction of loss – on farms and aquaculture crops – and waste through technological applications that improve the life cycle of food.

- To address the pandemic, six virtual training and experience-sharing events called “COVID *#SinDesperdicio*” Series were developed in collaboration with Logyca and the IDB. The development of these regional dialogues allowed the consolidation of a partners’ network with public, private and academic actors.





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5. ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND FOOD SAFETY

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

- In 2020, with the political and financial support of the European Union, FAO launched together with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and PAHO/WHO the tripartite collaboration project “Working together to fight Antimicrobial Resistance”. Over a three-year horizon, it involves seven countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay). Its intervention strategy based on the “One Health” multisectoral approach created in 2020 the following outputs under FAO’s direct responsibility:

- i)** Conceptual and methodological framework for the creation of a Network of Communicators for AMR Awareness during 2021. Its objective is to increase the connection with the mass media, through the provision of informative content, and the expansion of the capacities of the agricultural health services’ communication units for the strategic and sustainable planning of communication actions.

- ii)** Six national legal reports on institutional supra- or inter-ministerial coordination for AMR governance, which allow for a legal strengthening of the political will to respond to AMR under the “One Health” approach.

- iii)** Approach and political-technical dialogue to achieve in 2021 an alliance with the private sector, represented by the Feed Industry Association of Latin America and the Caribbean (FEEDLATINA).

- iv)** Nomination of the Diagnostic Laboratory of the National Service for Agrifood Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA, by its acronym in Spanish) in Mexico as a FAO Reference Centre for AMR; the first in the region.

- v)** Design and application of a methodology for conducting a national situation analysis on AMR to guide technical assistance and focus countries on the critical points to be addressed in their National Action Plans.

- vi)** Development and implementation of seven National Work Plans of the project.

- Technical assistance to the Peruvian health and agriculture authorities for the formulation of a project concept note to apply for funding from the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). Peru was approved and will implement a project based on the “One Health” approach in 2021. The MPTF Secretariat decided that the project will be led by FAO Peru with technical support from the FAO Regional Office, coordinating the participation of OIE, the health sector and PAHO/WHO.

- The process of analysis and delivery of reports to Ecuador, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Uruguay on the assessment of AMR risks in the terrestrial and aquatic animal production sector was completed. Based on a pioneering methodology designed in the region,

AMR risk factors were identified and evaluated, determining their probability of occurrence within the containment system.

- In the framework of the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) 2020, the FAO Regional Office created 13 videos on AMR and the “One Health” approach. These were disseminated through social media platforms to reach a wide range of audience.
- The FAO Regional Office participated in technical webinars organised by Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and the United States of America.

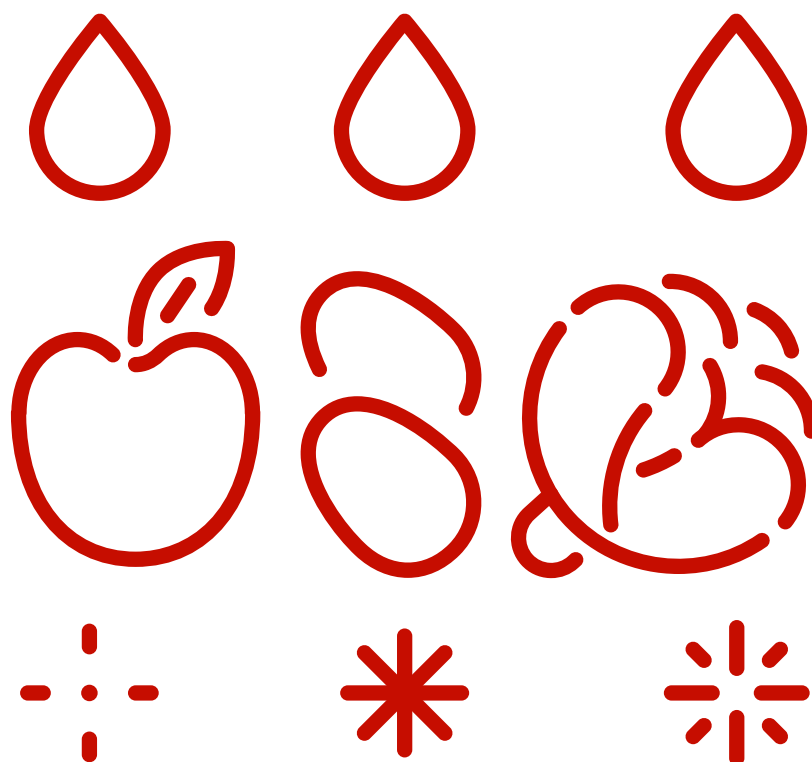
Food safety

In 2020, FAO worked on the development of a handlers/operators manual for the promotion of food safety in small-scale poultry production – Poultry Cottage Industry – in Trinidad and Tobago.

In Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, FAO conducted for the first time a microbiological analysis of dried aquaponic products to support the preparation of guidance for the safety of products from aquaponic systems.

Besides, FAO accompanied the implementation process of the Codex Trust Fund (CTF) Project for Cuba, which will strengthen the Cuban National Codex Alimentarius Committee.

In the framework of the project funded by the World Trade Organisation’s Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), FAO is preparing a programme for training in food safety risk analysis in ten countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. FAO held meetings with each of the countries to learn about their needs in risk analysis (assessment, management and communication) and to develop the project.





6. PUBLIC POLICY CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

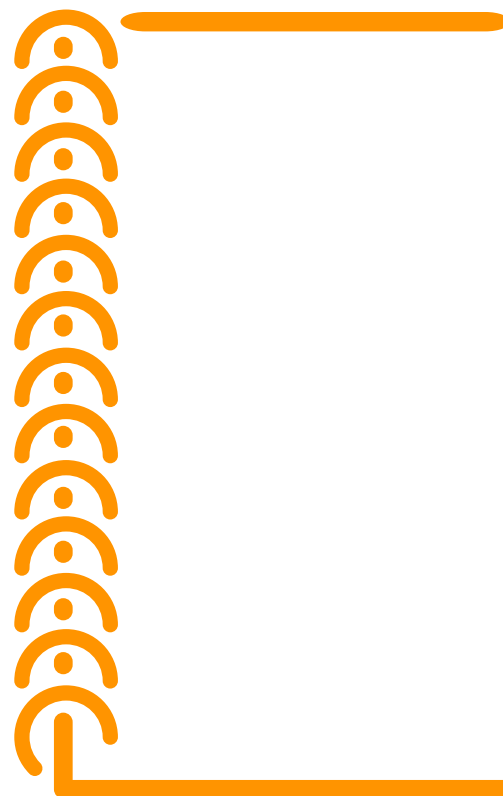
The FAO Public Policy Capacity Development Centre doubled its production capacity during 2020: more than 39 000 people were trained, which represent an increase of 105% compared to 2019.

FAO provided courses on monitoring the right to adequate food to academics from 15 countries: Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Uruguay.

In 2020, FAO launched five series of conferences and training courses:

- 2030 Series conferences: Food, agriculture and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean
- FAO Webinars: COVID-19 and Food Systems Series
- Food loss and waste: legal frameworks and donation initiatives in times of COVID-19
- Trilateral Meeting Colombia-Ecuador-Peru.
- Family Farming: an integral path to rural development.

To address the pandemic, the Centre offered new services and information for decision-making, with more than 200 000 views of the 2030 Series webinars and the COVID-19 webinars.





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7. STATISTICS

FAO supported Costa Rica, Ecuador and Uruguay in improving the quality of the Integrated Agricultural Surveys in the agricultural and food security sector for the collection of information related to economic aspects, production methods, labour, environmental impacts and gender. The Organization also supported them in the use of the *Survey Solutions* tool that allows the implementation of digital surveys and GPS to geo-reference farms and measure the agricultural area.

The Ministries of Agriculture and the National Statistics Offices of Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay and received training on the methodologies of multiple Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

A total of 151 people from Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay participated in the workshop on SDG indicator 2.4.1.

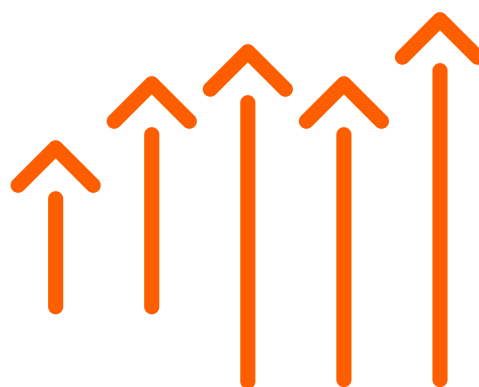
In the same way, 200 officials from Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Uruguay participated in the workshop on SDG indicators 2.3.1 and 2.3.2.

In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, FAO supported the revision of available data for indicators 14.c.1; 15.3.1 and 15.6 and three online courses (one per indicator) were developed to train officials in the Ministry of People's Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC).

In the context of COVID-19, FAO support allowed Barbados, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to conduct a rapid situation assessment and measurement of household food security through telephone calls where, by redesigning questionnaires and sample design, the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) was implemented.

In the case of Colombia, Panama and Paraguay, FAO collected information and is in the process of generating data for the reporting of SDG indicators 2.1.1. and 2.1.2.

FAO also provided assistance in agricultural census operations in the region, particularly in Paraguay. In this case, FAO facilitated the exchange of experiences with Argentina and Brazil to carry out a digital census in the country. In the case of Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, assistance was provided for methodology development and the preparation for the implementation of the agricultural census.



REGIONAL INITIATIVE 2: HAND-IN-HAND TOWARDS PROSPEROUS AND INCLUSIVE RURAL SOCIETIES





1. HAND-IN-HAND INITIATIVE

In 2020, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras and Peru joined the Hand-in-Hand initiative.

The results in these countries were as follows:

- In Ecuador, the government and FAO formalised an agreement for the Hand-in-Hand initiative to work within the framework of the National Agricultural Plan. They formed a multidisciplinary team; selected and characterised priority territories; elaborated a document of agricultural typologies and frontier analysis; generated a national document of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative; developed a mapping of donors and projects as well as an analysis of the fiscal situation to identify opportunities and bottlenecks within public investment processes.
- In Haiti, FAO reached an agreement with the government: they made progress in the development of three typologies of departments and a pre-identification of opportunities. Besides, they established a partnership for the Promotion of Food and Nutritional Security (PROSAN) in the municipality of Belle-Anse, Department of Southeast Haiti. They also formalised the launch of the Hand-in-Hand initiative in Haiti with the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Environment, the main donors in Haiti and

the focal points for the initiative. Finally, they approved a Technical Cooperation Programme to support the process.

- Guatemala officially launched the Hand-in-Hand initiative, formed a working group, and developed typology maps of micro-regions.
- In Honduras, the Hand-in-Hand initiative was officially launched and the government formalised its participation, which will be framed within the COVID-19 Recovery Plan, the Early Recovery Plan and the Sustainable Reconstruction Plan (post hurricanes Eta and Iota). Progress was also made in the generation of the country's micro-region typology maps.
- In Peru, the government and FAO formalised the agreement to work within the framework of the Hand-in-Hand initiative by the end of 2020, and created a working group.

Following the guidelines of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, FAO shared with the countries ten documents on good practices at regional level; these experiences analyse the issues of food security and access to basic services, as well as the experiences of development initiatives to revitalise lagging territories.





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2. SOCIAL PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION

FAO provided technical assistance to nine countries (Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru) to develop coordinated strategies for social protection and productive and economic inclusion in rural territories.

An outstanding case was the implementation of Paraguay's National Poverty Reduction Plan and its articulation with the social protection system "Vamos!" at the territorial level.

Together with the Central American Integration System (SICA, by its acronym in Spanish), FAO designed the "Plan for the Recovery, Social Reconstruction and Resilience of Central America and the Dominican Republic" to mitigate the effects of the pandemic in the medium and long term.

The SICA Council of Ministers of Social Integration approved – with the technical and financial support of FAO – its Comprehensive Regional Social Policy 2020–2040, which considers the expansion of social protection and social security systems, the comprehensive incorporation of intra-regional migration into labour markets, the development of lagging territories, food security and protection in the face of the negative impacts of climate change and adverse natural phenomena.

FAO also supported the implementation of the Intersectoral Regional Agenda on Social Protection and Productive Inclusion with Equity 2018–2030 at the national level in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Honduras.

In collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the University of the Andes in Colombia, FAO developed an impact assessment on the synergies between social protection and productive programmes in Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

FAO prepared a study on the cultural relevance of cash transfer programmes in Central America, which will be used as an input to promote the strengthening of the intercultural approach of social protection programmes.





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3. FAMILY FARMING

In 2020, FAO supported the development of national family farming plans in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

The work of the Committees for Family Farming in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama was also strengthened this year. As part of these activities, FAO created the regional website of the Decade of Family Farming to disseminate studies, news, events and other content of interest.

FAO supported a trilateral meeting between the ministries of agriculture of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, with the aim of sharing the most successful policies and strategies to strengthen family farming and move towards sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems. The meeting was attended by deputy ministers, directors and technical teams from the ministries of agriculture of the three countries.

FAO held a meeting on family farming in the SICA region with the participation of more than 77 representatives of governments and civil society, where a proposal for a SICA regional plan for the Decade of Family Farming was drawn up.

FAO worked with the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA Americas) to increase the political presence of the cooperative sector in decision-making spaces linked to food security issues. Digital trade pilots have been carried out and work has begun on a permanent platform for collaboration between cooperatives in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Uruguay.

Within the framework of the Decade of Family Farming, the +Algodón project promoted the LazosApp application, which was initially used in Paraguay in nine agricultural schools in the country to share good practices and production technologies of the cotton-food system with students and teachers. The application addresses content on communication for development with the aim of connecting the rural sector, men, women, youth and institutions to information that promotes sustainable rural development. This innovation, promoted by the +Algodón project and the Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM) in Brazil, aims to reach around 800 young rural Paraguayans.





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4. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

FAO approved a regional strategy for working with indigenous and tribal peoples, specifically designed to be implemented in the context of a pandemic; it was created together with 12 indigenous organisations at the regional level and 40 organisations at the national level, 170 indigenous leaders, and 25 NGOs working with indigenous and tribal peoples in the region. Its objective is to make visible the natural and cultural wealth of indigenous and tribal peoples and their contribution to rural development and the SDG.

FAO assisted in the design and implementation of national policies specifically designed for and with indigenous peoples in Costa Rica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

In the framework of the activities of the Regional Interagency Group on Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (GIRPI, by its acronym in Spanish), the report *The Impact of COVID-19 on the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America (Abya Yala): between invisibility and collective resistance* was prepared by FAO, together with ECLAC, UN Women, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC). This report warns of the need to consider the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples in pandemic containment plans and economic

recovery. Its recommendations were reaffirmed by the PARLATINO Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants and Ethnic Groups.

In collaboration with FILAC, information was collected in indigenous territories on food security in the face of COVID-19 from a monitoring network of the Regional Indigenous Platform. This innovative process allowed for the technical training of six national Indigenous organisations (in Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru) on the use of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), as well as the generation of the aforementioned regional report on the situation of indigenous peoples in the context of COVID-19.

In partnership with SICA, the Latin American Foundation for Social Innovation (*Fundación Latinoamericana de Innovación Social*), FILAC, the Indigenous Council of Central America, Abya Yala, and the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas, FAO designed a strategy for economic empowerment with indigenous women.

FAO supported the Ministry of Social Development in Paraguay to create guidelines for the implementation of the intercultural approach of the National Poverty Reduction Plan; these guidelines are aimed at the different actors involved in decision-making of policies focused on indigenous population.





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5. GENDER EQUALITY

In 2020, FAO and multiple partners carried out the fifth edition of the regional campaign *#Mujeres rurales, mujeres con derechos* (Rural Women, Women With Rights): 27 government institutions, UN agencies and international cooperation agencies participated, including the Alliance of Spouses of Heads of State and Representatives (*Alianza de Cónyuges de Jefes de Estado y Representantes*).

The campaign led to progress in integrating gender into the response to the pandemic in six countries in the region (Argentina, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama and Paraguay) and resulted in national chapters in Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay.

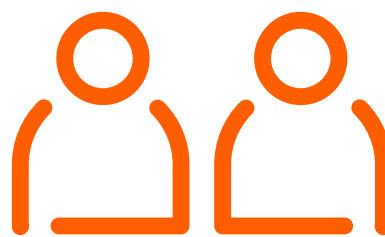
In the framework of International Women’s Day, FAO launched the online course “Governing land for women and men” on gender-sensitive land governance; it was taken by 598 women and 512 men from 28 countries.

FAO supported 13 countries (the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia) in designing and implementing public policies based on gender budgeting models. The Organization also supported the improvement of working conditions and social protection for women day labourers, and assisted in-

depth diagnostics on the situation of food security, access to resources, social protection and gender-based violence in the context of COVID-19.

FAO carried out a Gender and Rural Advisory Services Assessment in programmes and policies aimed at rural women in Chile and Guatemala, in partnership with the Latin American Centre for Rural Development (RIMISP), the Institute for Agricultural Development and the PRODEMU Foundation in Chile, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala. This analysis will make it possible to incorporate a gender perspective into the institutional offer of technical assistance and rural extension services.

In Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, FAO carried out monitoring and reporting to evaluate women’s access to land and to identify the levels and mechanisms of legal protection that the countries have in place to guarantee it.





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6. MIGRATION

FAO implemented actions in migrant communities in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to strengthen their resilience to climatic, economic and social shocks. The countries and FAO improved the physical and social capital of about 5 400 families and about 600 micro-enterprises through technical assistance and capacity building of extension services in the three countries.

Together with ILO and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), FAO prepared and presented to the Chilean authorities the study *Inserción laboral de los trabajadores migrantes en el sector rural en Chile* (Labour insertion of migrant workers in the rural sector in Chile). This study presents the challenges faced by migrant workers working in the Chilean countryside and the elements that influence the high rates of informality and precariousness of agricultural employment.





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7. NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

Innovation

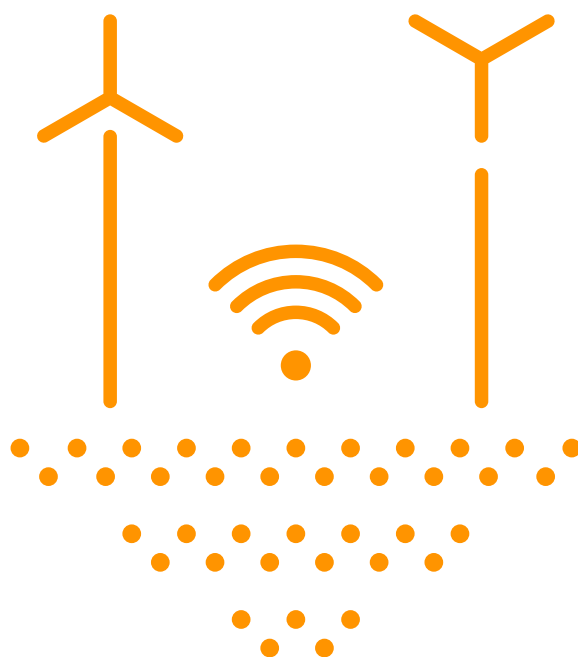
FAO developed the Innovation Agenda and Roadmap 2020–2022. This agenda includes concept notes for regional innovation projects on: functional food circuits in intermediary cities; smart agriculture in low-emission livestock; digital technologies for food systems and rural territories; and value chain partnerships in the Caribbean.

FAO agreed to collaborate with the Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology (FONTAGRO) to promote programmes, projects and activities that foster research, development and innovation in the agrifood sector in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Private investment and sustainable development of territories

FAO carried out a mapping and classification of actors in the field of private investment in rural areas of Latin America and the Caribbean. The result is a report that contains a list of financial and private institutions such as banks, corporate foundations and multinationals, all classified according to the type of investment they carry out in rural territories.

The Organization held a workshop with five expert organisations in private finance (Acciona, Consultora Estratégica, FINAGRO, IC Fundación and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID, by its acronym in Spanish), where they identified partners for the financing of learning and capacity building projects; the most prominent case was with AECID.



REGIONAL INITIATIVE 3: SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT AGRICULTURE





1. ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT AND USE AS A BASIS FOR PRODUCTION

Water governance

FAO published five case studies on water governance in specific basins in Central and South America. The analyses were carried out in the Tinguiririca river sub-basin in Chile; in the Lurín river basin in Peru; in the El Jute river micro-basin (Lempa river basin) in El Salvador; in the Los Amates river micro-basin (Grande Zacapa river basin) in Guatemala; and in the Candela river sub-basin and the Volcán-Cerro Punta hydrographic region (Chiriquí Viejo river basin) in Panama.

The studies analyse the above-mentioned basins and make recommendations for better sustainable and resilient management and to address the complex scarcity scenario, which puts the food security and nutrition of thousands of people at risk.

Soils and their degradation

With support from FAO, the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), together with institutions in each country, trained 45 experts from institutions in more than 20 countries on digital soil salinity mapping. The Organization also initiated the elaboration of the Global Soil Organic Carbon Map (GSOCMap).

In the framework of the GSP, FAO also organised an awareness campaign in more than 30 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean on the protection of biodiversity and the promotion of sustainable land management. These activities will allow countries to progress in the elaboration of products to report on Sustainable Development Goal 15, Life on land.

In the context of the World Soil Day events, with the assistance of FAO, more than 260 activities were carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean, at the level of ministries, universities, schools, farmers' associations and civil society, to raise awareness on sustainable soil management in the region.

Ecosystem services and landscape management

In Peru, within the framework of the UN-REDD National Programme, FAO supported the Ministry of Environment in developing a proposal for the calculation of the Forest Reference Emissions Level, incorporating both deforestation and forest degradation in the Amazon biome, for submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

FAO also supported the incorporation of the indigenous approach to forest monitoring at the national level, through actions that included capacity building of 45 indigenous communities and 13 regional indigenous organisations, together with the provision of basic equipment for forest monitoring.

In Chile, the Ministry of Agriculture, with assistance from FAO, has permanently incorporated into its regular national programmes, with state funding, the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System for Forest Ecosystems (SIMEF, by its acronym in Spanish), a tool with information on Chile's native forests and their biodiversity to promote sustainable forest management and contribute to decision-making at different levels.

This institutionalisation of SIMEF as a coordinated system involving the relevant public institutions will improve the governance and sustainability of 14.6 million hectares of native forest ecosystems which are now in the National Forest Inventory.

Costa Rica, with FAO support, launched the second version of its Payment for Environmental Services (PES) programme. This new version incorporates, in addition to the forest carbon that has been operating in the country for more than 20 years, financial award by the state for the care and recovery of degraded soils through their recarbonisation, namely, the increase of their organic carbon. This second version also has a special focus on small farmers.

In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, together with the Ministry of People's Power for Ecosocialism, and with Global Environment Facility (GEF) funds, FAO promoted a sustainable forest management strategy, focusing on the Kariña indigenous community in the Imataca Forest Reserve. This strategy aims to conserve biodiversity and mitigate climate change, with a gender focus. As a conservation strategy, biodiversity and the identification of overexploited forest species such as *Hymenaea courbaril*, *Erismia uncinatum*, *Handroanthus serratifolia* and *Peltogyne floribunda* have been promoted. The agroforestry systems are aimed at improving the fallow plot system and guaranteeing food security for the indigenous communities, where traditional crops are combined with fruit species such as *Psidium guajava*, *Citrus sinensis*, *Inga sp.*, *Annona muricata* and *Carica papaya*, among others.

Conservation, sustainable agriculture and biodiversity

In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, FAO assisted the Ministry of Environment and Water in the cataloguing of native maize in three macro-regions, which led to a technical standard and a management tool for their protection and conservation. This standard will favour the protection of 19 maize ecotypes identified in the Valleys, 22 ecotypes in the Chaco and 13 ecotypes in the Altiplano.

FAO, together with five local production organisations (Sociedad Provincial de Productores de Quinua, Central de Cooperativas Agropecuarias Operación Tierra, Asociación de Productores Agropecuarios Culpina K, Quinua Bolivia del Sur, and San Cristóbal Productores), improved the capacities of 2 000

families in the southern highlands and 500 families in the centre, for the implementation of sustainable production practices.

Together with the Bolivian Government, FAO trained 1 109 families in sustainable quinoa production. As a result, a new production system was adopted on 110 hectares belonging to small producers, and the quinoa yield per hectare increased from 6–8 quintals per hectare to 25–30 quintals per hectare.

In Chile, FAO trained more than 100 farmers in conservation practices, cultural and environmentally sustainable uses of agrobiodiversity. They identified 45 products of Important Systems of National Agricultural Heritage (SIPAN, by its acronym in Spanish) that will generate a basket of products to highlight the quality of ancestral foods that are produced locally while being a source of development for the local economy. Twenty-two species were characterised, to safeguard the agrobiodiversity, culture, knowledge and traditional production practices of rural communities, which represent several native peoples.

The Dominican Republic and Honduras implemented an early warning system for coffee cultivation using mobile applications for data collection to facilitate the monitoring, field detection and treatment of coffee rust (SATCAFE). This was achieved through the delivery of an IT tool (software migration) to the coffee institute domains of both countries.

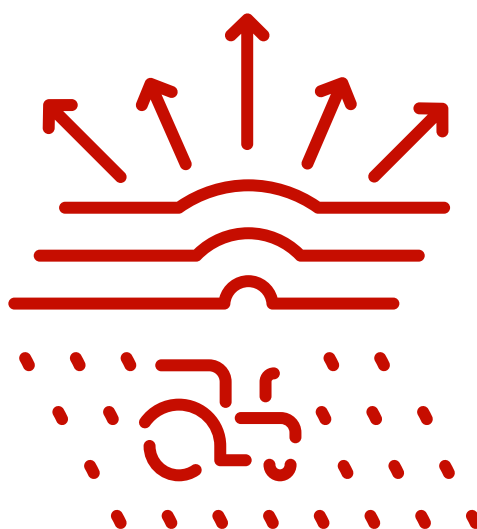


2. THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AS A KEY PLAYER IN THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA

During 2020, together with ECLAC, FAO served as the Secretariat of the Platform for Climate Action in Agriculture (PLACA) in Latin America and the Caribbean, initiating joint collaborative work between representatives of ministries of agriculture for climate action.

The initiative, launched at COP25, aims to promote collaboration for the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. To date, PLACA has ten member countries (Argentina, the Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay), and six partners (the World Bank, Conservation International, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, the Natural Resources Institute of Finland, and the World Meteorological Organization).

In August 2020, a draft model law on climate change and food security and nutrition was unanimously approved in PARLATINO. It is the first law at regional level that addresses the issue of climate change taking into account its effects on food security and nutrition. This process was supported by FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).





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3. FINANCING FOR CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

In 2020, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved a USD 185 million budget – with co-financing of USD 118 million – for low-emission, resilient agriculture and forestry projects in Argentina, Colombia, Cuba and Guatemala, with a focus on supporting vulnerable women and indigenous communities. These projects will benefit 168 000 people, 70 000 of whom are women, and mitigate emissions of 28.4 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

The GCF approved a USD 2.17 million budget in READINESS projects that will support Argentina, Ecuador, Panama and the Plurinational State of Bolivia in laying the foundations for strategic climate interventions in the agricultural sector.

In Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects, USD 56 million were mobilised in 2020, plus co-financing of USD 418 million. These projects will help 478 000 producers – almost half of whom are women – in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Uruguay to achieve more sustainable and resilient means of agricultural, forestry, livestock, aquaculture and fisheries production.





4. MAINSTREAMING GENDER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

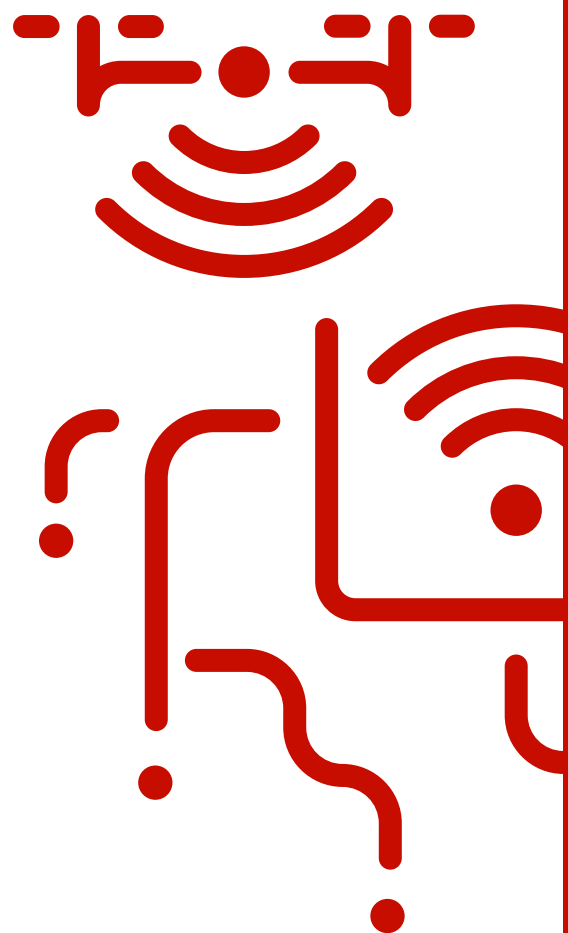
FAO carried out gender diagnostics and analysis to generate gender action plans to address gender gaps and facilitate women's participation in projects financed by large environmental funds such as the GCF and GEF; projects approved by these two funds in 2020 will benefit 310 000 women by 2021.





5. DIGITAL AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATION TO MOVE TOWARDS MORE PRODUCTIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

- In 2020, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and Uruguay improved their agricultural census and survey systems through the use of information and communication technologies for questionnaire administration, global positioning system (GPS) for area measurement, or satellite imagery for field operations.
- In Colombia, in the framework of a project on emergency assistance to rural livelihoods of host communities and migrant population in the department of La Guajira (“*Asistencia de emergencia a los medios de vida rurales de comunidades de acogida y población migrante en el departamento de la Guajira*”), FAO promoted the WayuuMarket project, which has enabled 165 families in La Guajira, all from the Wayúu ethnic group, to be trained in the use of a digital platform to sell their handcraft production.





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6. IMPROVING THE RESILIENCE OF FARMERS AND COMMUNITIES TO HAZARDS AND RISKS, AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO DISASTERS, EMERGENCIES AND CRISES.

El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua strengthened drought monitoring and early warning systems, as well as the capacity of communities to take mitigation, preparedness and response measures for hydro-meteorological hazards (drought and cyclones) to protect their crops and livestock.

This was made possible through the implementation of an agricultural drought information system; the development of a practical guide for the formulation of early warning and action plans for agricultural drought; and mitigation, preparedness and response actions implemented in emergency and disaster risk reduction projects.

In 2020, FAO assisted Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua in the design and implementation of their emergency response plans to hurricanes Eta and Iota, to boost livelihood rehabilitation and recovery for 333 000 people, mostly smallholder farmers, with a special focus on women and indigenous peoples.

Through 12 workshops, more than 9 000 officials, technicians and producers from different countries in Latin America and the Caribbean were trained. The main topics addressed were: Fusarium wilt tropical race 4 (R4T), Central American locust, pine bark beetles, the Khapra beetle, and other phytosanitary threats.

Besides, the region's strategy and action plan for the prevention, contingency and response to Fusarium wilt R4T was developed with the participation of more than 150 government officials and technicians, producers, exporters, research centres, among others, from Colombia, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

In the area of animal production and health, the following publications were released: *African swine fever: detection and diagnosis - A manual for veterinarians*; *African swine fever in wild boar. Ecology and biosecurity*; *Carcass management for small and medium scale livestock farms - Practical considerations*.





7. BLUE GROWTH

Ecuador and Panama developed regulatory frameworks for the effective implementation at national level of the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing), in line with compliance with the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA). Suriname ratified its accession to the PSMA.

In Mexico, FAO assisted the government in the management of shrimp fisheries and in the technical evaluation of methods for catching *corvina* (*Pogonias sp.*) in fragile ecosystems. These initiatives will favour the governance and sustainability of the aforementioned productive activities; they will also make it possible to develop solutions to achieve the use of species belonging to the shrimp's accompanying fauna in fisheries – thus preventing them from being discarded, contributing to the production of food of high nutritional value as part of the actions to achieve sustainable fisheries.

In Ecuador, with the support of the *Marino Costero* Project, FAO worked to reduce pressure on the *cangrejo rojo* (*Ucides occidentalis*) and *concha negra* (*Tuberculosis anadara*) resources. Fifty-eight coastal organisations have Sustainable Use and Custody Agreements for the Mangrove Ecosystem (AUSCM, by its acronym in Spanish) signed between fishers' associations and the Ministry of Environment and Water of Ecuador, representing a total area of 69 691 hectares protected, where the largest number of mangroves in the country is concentrated.

In Panama, FAO assisted the government in drafting its new Law on Fisheries, Aquaculture and Related Activities. The law regulates and encourages

activities such as aquaculture, sport, industrial and artisanal fishing in accordance with international standards and the latest technologies, with the aim of ensuring that they are carried out in a sustainable manner, using appropriate methods to ensure the conservation, reproduction, production, renewal and permanence of aquatic resources and fishing and aquaculture activities.

In Chile, FAO assisted the government in strengthening adaptive capacity in the fisheries and aquaculture sector to reduce vulnerability and increase the sector's capacity to adapt to climate change. Seven inter-institutional working groups were created that brought together key actors in a common working space. They designed an Interoperable Information System that systematises variables on fisheries, aquaculture and climate change; they trained more than 440 public officials, decision-makers and actors in artisanal fisheries and small-scale aquaculture in climate change adaptation. They also created a training programme in participatory environmental monitoring to explore new adaptation practices in the coastal communities of the pilot coves: Riquelme, Tongoy, Coliumo and El Manzano-Hualaihué, which include experimental culture of bivalve molluscs and algae.

- The following publications stand out:
 - + *Guía básica - Cambio climático, pesca y acuicultura* (Basic guidelines - Climate change, fisheries and aquaculture)
 - + *Fortalecimiento de la capacidad de adaptación en el sector pesquero y acuícola chileno al cambio climático* (Strengthening the adaptation capacity of the Chilean fisheries and aquaculture sector to climate change)
 - + *Lineamientos referenciales para legislar o regular el buceo en la pesca artesanal o de pequeña escala en la región de América Latina y el Caribe* (Reference guidelines to legislate or regulate diving in artisanal or small-scale fishing in the Latin American and Caribbean region)
 - + *Mecanismos autógenos de microfinanciamiento en organizaciones de pescadores artesanales y acuicultores de la pequeña empresa en América Latina*. (Autogenous microfinance mechanisms in organizations of artisanal fishers and small business in Latin America).

WORLD FOOD DAY 2020 AND FAO 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

On 4, 5 and 6 November 2020, in the framework of the celebration of World Food Day 2020 and the commemoration of FAO's 75th anniversary, the high-level virtual seminar "Agrifood systems in Latin America and the Caribbean: new scenarios and opportunities post COVID-19?" was held to design an institutional response to the demands of the countries that arose during the pandemic.

Organised with five partner institutions - ECLAC, the IDB, IFPRI, IFAD and the World Bank - it included more than 100 presentations by experts from Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Europe, 23 panel discussions, in which more than 200 expert professionals participated.

The seminar had a total digital audience of more than 27 000 participants. As a result, a consensus document will be created with partners, as well as eight thematic papers per panel, which are expected to be references for dialogue with decision-makers.



HIGH-IMPACT COMMUNICATIONS



During 2020, communications played a central role in helping FAO's work with its partners and allies to prevent the health crisis caused by COVID-19 from turning into a food crisis.

A wide dissemination of dialogues, agreements, public policies and joint actions between private and public sectors supported the timely response to the crisis. Government authorities, former presidents, parliamentarians, farmers, suppliers, wholesale markets and traders, together with representatives of science, academia and civil society were protagonists throughout the year.

These messages had a strong presence in top-tier regional media: **4 009 appearances** were recorded in top-tier media in Latin America and the Caribbean, **an increase of almost 30 percent compared to 2019**.

These appearances included **214 opinion columns** written by the Director General, the Regional Representative, Country Representatives and technical officers, a 155 percent increase over the previous year.

During 2020, the countries in the region created **16 success stories** that were published on www.FAO.org, a key element in bringing the protagonists of our work to a global audience.

The major regional events had a substantial communication impact: during the **36th Regional Conference**, 11 000 people visited the Conference website; 32 000 people followed the live events on Youtube, Facebook and Twitter; 12.9 million people viewed FAO content on Twitter; and more than 100 000 people received our messages on Facebook @FAOenEspañol.

During **World Food Day (WFD)**, 27 264 people followed the regional event live; 10 964 people visited the regional WFD website; 58 million people received the messages on Twitter, while more than 250 000 people viewed the messages on Facebook.

Digital platforms and audiovisual products

2020 was the year of digital transformation. This allowed for much closer and more interactive contact with the public online. The twitter account @FAO

Americas, with 90 352 followers, is the Organization's account with the largest number of followers at regional level. It increased by 14.4 percent compared to 2019 and drove seven major campaigns:

- *#HéroesDeLaAlimentación* (FoodHeroes)
- *#DesperdicioCero* (ZeroWaste)
- *#MujeresRurales* (RuralWomen)
- *#ElPoderDeLasHistorias* (ThePowerOfStories)
- *#DíaMundialDeLaAlimentación* (WorldFoodDay)
- *#ConferenciaFAO* (FAOConference)
- *#GrandesResultados* (BigResults)

During 2020, the Regional Office created its Facebook account – Facebook_FAO en Español – which was launched in early October and already has 6 990 followers.

In terms of audiovisual content, eight *#HéroesDeLaAlimentación* campaign videos were produced, featuring testimonies from countries during their response to the pandemic, and seven animated videos using the latest digital technologies for the Regional Conference.

Website

The Regional Office website received 622 782 total visitors, 39 percent more than in 2019.

105 conferences and webinars were hosted and streamed by Fao.org/Americas.

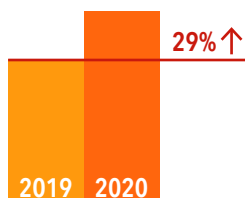
Publications

In the publishing area, we can highlight the rapid response to COVID-19 with a huge production, mostly bilingual, with a total of 52 documents comprising four different thematic series.

Many were among FAO's publications with the highest impact and reach globally. FAO in the region also published 21 books and 24 brochures and short books, including new editions of the 2030 series and two new thematic series, contributing to the generation and dissemination of expertise on topics within the Organization's mandate.

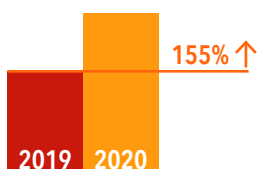
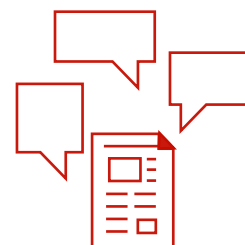
4 009

appearances in the region's top media



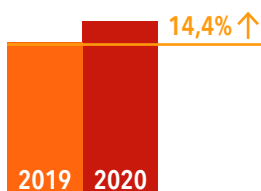
214

opinion columns published by FAO Representatives or Technical Officers



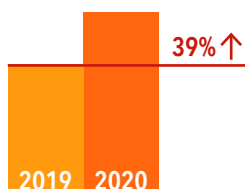
90 352

Twitter followers @FAO Americas



622 782

total visitors to the regional website



6 990

followers on the new account Facebook_FAO en Español

RESOURCE MOBILISATION



Projects launched and executed

During 2020, FAO mobilised USD 194.8 million in voluntary contributions to support 80 new projects.

FAO implemented 377 projects in the region, in addition to 18 global and interregional projects that include work in a country of the region.

Of the total number of projects implemented, 216 have been financed by 41 strategic partners and 161 through the Technical Cooperation Programme. The budget of these projects amounts to USD 684 million.

Green Climate Fund (GCF)	USD 167 460 785	13
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	USD 120 360 539	51
Brazil	USD 70 460 142	12
Colombia	USD 69 675 369	22
European Union	USD 69 584 441	20
Mexico	USD 26 709 241	9
United Nations Joint Programme (UNJP)	USD 19 913 017	24
Sweden	USD 18 366 774	4
Guyana Green Investment Fund (GRIF)-Norway	USD 14 792 277	1
Spain	USD 13 614 575	5
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)	USD 7 653 997	9
Italy	USD 7 648 999	5
Argentina	USD 5 488 975	1
Canada	USD 5 442 190	2
Republic of Korea	USD 5 000 000	1
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	USD 4 366 000	1
Panama	USD 3 351 436	2
Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)	USD 2 360 854	3
Switzerland	USD 2 150 000	1
Uruguay	USD 1 899 546	2
Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)	USD 1 855 163	1
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	USD 1 652 367	2
Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)	USD 1 585 133	1
Belgium	USD 1 540 000	3
Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)	USD 1 200 000	1
UNICEF	USD 969 203	1
United States of America	USD 900 000	1
Grenada	USD 690 414	1
Multilateral	USD 670 000	2
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	USD 648 958	1
UN Trust Fund	USD 613 645	1
Kialsa Foundation (FKI)	USD 426 842	1
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	USD 375 600	1
El Salvador	USD 366 000	1
Germany	USD 337 534	1
Dominican Republic	USD 300 000	1
Nicaragua	USD 250 000	1
World Food Programme Administered Trust Fund	USD 235 000	2
Chile	USD 208 747	2
France	USD 142 694	1
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	USD 125 764	2
SUBTOTAL	USD 651 392 221	216
Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)	USD 32 473 000	161
TOTAL	USD 683 865 221	377

Projects undergoing negotiation

As of 31 December 2020, the region had 92 projects in the final stages of design and negotiation with strategic partners (stages II and III), for a total amount of USD 533 million.

Investment Centre

The FAO Investment Centre Division contributed to the design of seven investment projects for the region, which were approved during 2020, totalling USD 640 million. Of these seven projects approved in the region, three were from the World Bank, one from the Inter-American Development Bank, one from IFAD, one from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, and one from the GCF.

Currently, 11 investment projects are being designed by the Investment Centre and should be approved during 2021. Besides, the FAO Investment Centre is supporting the implementation and supervision of a portfolio of 36 projects financed by development banks and international financial institutions, representing USD 3.1 billion in public investments for agriculture/rural development and sustainable natural resource management in the region.



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