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**Government
of the Republic
of Moldova**



**Ministry of
Agriculture and
Food Industry**



**United Nations
Country Team**



**Food and
Agriculture
Organization**

**FAO NATIONAL MEDIUM-TERM PRIORITY FRAMEWORK
IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

2009–2011

**Final Draft
17 July 2009**

**Office of the United Nations Resident
Coordinator**

**Ministry of Agriculture and
Food Industry**

FAO Representative

JOINT STATEMENT

The Government of the Republic of Moldova, represented by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) and the United Nations, represented by the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the Republic of Moldova are pleased to jointly launch the FAO National Medium-term Priority Framework (NMTPF) 2009–2011 in Moldova, as stipulated hereunder.

The FAO NMTPF 2009–2011 is a result of extensive consultations held with a wide range of stakeholders and partners within the country as well as with the relevant technical units of FAO headquarters in Rome and the regional and sub-regional office in Budapest. The signatories below express sincere appreciation to all who have so willingly made constructive comments and suggestions through the consultative process.

This document, co-owned by the Government of the Republic of Moldova and FAO, indicates the broad commitment of FAO, subject to the availability of required funding, to assist the Government of the Republic of Moldova in its efforts to achieve national development objectives as described in the National Development Strategy, in the National Strategy for the Sustainable Development of the Agro-industrial Complex as well as the Republic of Moldova Localized Millennium Development Goals. It supplements and contributes to the strategic objectives of the UN common system as expressed in the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2007–2011 for the Republic of Moldova.

By endorsing the FAO NMTPF 2009–2011, the Government of the Republic of Moldova is committed to providing collaboration, to the fullest possible extent with regard to available capacity and resources, to facilitate the achievement of the objectives and actions proposed in this document.

The FAO NMTPF 2009–2011 will be pursued in partnerships as broad as possible and in alignment with the joint efforts of the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the donor community for enhanced coordination and aid effectiveness. The Government of the Republic of Moldova and FAO look forward to seeking collaboration and support from concerned partners *vis-à-vis* the successful implementation of the FAO NMTPF 2009–2011.

United Nations Resident Coordinator

Date:

Minister
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Industry (MAFI)
Government of the Republic
of Moldova

FAO Representative
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations (FAO)

Date:

Date:

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1. INTRODUCTION

The following document establishes FAO's National Medium-term Priority Framework (NMTPF) in the Republic of Moldova from 2009 to 2011¹. It prioritizes FAO interventions in the country to support the achievement of the development objectives set by the Government of the Republic of Moldova in its National Development Strategy 2008-2011. It builds on and elaborates FAO's Programme in the Republic of Moldova and is an expansion of that programme. Furthermore, the priorities identified by the NMTPF reflect those included in the UN Framework for Development Assistance to the Republic of Moldova 2007-2011 and reflects those included in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2007–2011. It also takes into account the relevant strategies and priorities identified by FAO's partner agencies, such as the Country Partnership Strategy of the World Bank (WB), 2009-2012, The International Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD) Country Strategic Opportunities Program (COSOP), 2007-2012, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and European Commission to Moldova country strategies to ensure FAO's comparative advantage, maximize synergy and increased aid effectiveness (see Annex 2 for a synopsis of major donor activities and projects).

Formulation of the NMTPF has involved iterative review of national priorities for food, agriculture, forestry and fishery development as well as the examination of major ongoing and planned development programmes in the Republic of Moldova identified in Donor & Development Partner Profiles prepared by the FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SEU). The process involved two missions to the Republic of Moldova. The first mission involved analytical work which consisted mainly of (1) a review of the agricultural and donor situation in the country, (2) a review of the government's development policy goals for agriculture, (3) a review of FAO past and present programmes in Moldova with discussions on medium-term priorities for Government – FAO collaboration, and (4) a review of the programmes of other donors and development agencies. A Moldova NMTPF Steering Committee was formed within MAFI in order to ensure ownership of the process by MAFI. The second mission involved further discussion on priority FAO-Republic of Moldova collaborative work which culminated in a consultation workshop with government officials and UNDP representatives. This document has thus been formulated through extensive consultations with relevant line ministries and national institutions as well as development partners, including the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), international financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors. Effective partnerships will be pursued with the interested stakeholders in the implementation of the FAO NMTPF 2009–2011 in the Republic of Moldova. In identifying FAO's medium-term strategy and priority areas, particular attention was given to existing opportunities and constraints faced by the Republic of Moldova in achieving its national development goals and by FAO in providing effective assistance at a country level.

This document is jointly owned by the Republic of Moldova and FAO. It demonstrates FAO's commitment to the spirit of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness of March 2005, which stresses coordination, harmonization and partnership within the donor community at the country level. Its time frame and priorities are aligned with those of the National Development Strategy for 2008-2011 and the UNDAF 2007-2011. The NMTPF is of a rolling nature, to be jointly reviewed and adjusted every two years by FAO and the Republic of Moldova to reflect emerging requirements and changes in the policies, directives and priorities of the Republic of Moldova as well as those of FAO as directed by its governing bodies.

¹ The duration of the NMTPF 2009 to 2011 fits with the end of the present United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2007–2011 as well as the National Development Strategy, 2008. A new NMTPF will be developed for 2012-2017 to coincide and be part of the 2012-2017 UNDAF.

2. SITUATION ANALYSIS

2.1 Economic and Social Challenges and Opportunities

Moldova, with a population of 3.5 million, is classified as a Land Locked Developing Country and as a Low Income Country. Before independence in 1991, Moldova was one of the Soviet Union's most important sources of agricultural goods. Agriculture's share of the economy has declined since independence, but it remains the most important sector, accounting for around 10% of GDP. Agricultural production and processing now generate about 40% of export revenues employing more than 33% of the economically active population. The main agricultural products exported are wine, fruits and vegetables.

Moldova's agricultural sector has great potential however; the present level of productivity is lower than in other sectors of the economy resulting in low income generation among the rural population which further results in reduced access to finance and low investment in the sector. Approximately 60% of agricultural production comes from individual farmers and household plots of 10 hectares or less and can be characterized as subsistence farming. The crop production sector is dominated by low value crops. Land fragmentation, as a result of land reform policies in the 1990s, is a major obstacle to increased productivity. The deteriorated condition of the irrigation system is another. Lack of business management knowledge, lack of modern technologies and marketing skills, and weak links with markets are further constraints preventing a shift from subsistence- to market-oriented agriculture and value addition. Furthermore, inadequate agriculture sector statistics make it difficult to plan for the development of the agriculture sector.

Moldova agriculture also suffers from key natural hazards which include erosion, chronic periodic droughts, floods and severe weather (heavy rain, hail, wind and frost). Recent droughts in 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2007 devastated agricultural production and severely decreased food security and rural livelihoods.

Severe tensions induced by disturbances in the sustainable development of the agri-food sector include export bans to Moldova's traditional markets, regular natural hazards, and repercussions of the global financial and food crisis. These disturbances have resolved the Government to reconsider its policy objectives toward the development of new coping mechanisms, adjustment to climate change, and soaring food prices at international level that include new government policies including the revision of fiscal policies.

A major opportunity is Moldova's proximity to developed countries and the EU with a high demand for diversified and high quality food products. Given the major unexplored potential of the Moldovan agri-food sector, the efforts of the Moldovan Government and agricultural producers to increase competitiveness of agricultural production requires foreign investments and external technical assistance. Continued efforts are necessary to obtain access to the EU market by improving quality standards, introducing modern management systems in agriculture, and harmonizing national legislation.

2.2 National Development Priorities

Moldova's agriculture and rural development strategy is articulated in the National Development Strategy for 2008-2011. The sector objectives identified for rural development and growth of agriculture productivity include:

1. Improving the performance of agriculture and the competitiveness of farming and food products:
 - i. Improve the management of farming lands and soil protection;
 - ii. Improve natural hazard risk management, preservation and efficient use of natural resources;
 - iii. Upgrade the production and development infrastructure for the farming and food product market infrastructure;
 - iv. Reorganize veterinary and phytosanitary services in line with EU norms to secure food safety and promote exports;
 - v. Improve the quality of education in agriculture, by means of in-service training;
 - vi. Strengthen rural development services (information and consultation services in agriculture and rural development);
 - vii. Reform and consolidate the system for research and technological development in agriculture and food processing industry; and
 - viii. Set up an efficient partnership between research, education and development in agriculture.

2. Developing a climate favorable for strengthening SMEs and business skills in rural areas:
 - i. Strengthen entrepreneurship in small towns and villages by facilitating access to services (one-stop shops at the LPA, business information centers, networks for product trading and distribution);
 - ii. Develop a business culture in rural areas through education programs, business incubators etc.
 - iii. Develop support services for rural business;
 - iv. Develop rural non-farming activities, in particular within SMEs, including within farming enterprises, through sector-wide programs and projects (services, telecommunications, transport, etc.); and
 - v. Build capacity for harnessing the tourism/travel potential by identifying and promoting a limited number of very competitive products and services (niche approach) and consolidate the cooperation in the area of tourism with neighboring countries.

To ensure the achievement of national priorities, in accordance with the National Development Strategy for 2008-2011, these general objectives have been further specified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) in the Government Decision no. 282, passed on 11 March 2008. The paper on the "National Strategy for the Sustainable Development of the Agro-industrial Complex" by MAFI expresses the objectives in more detailed terms.

2.3 Existing Platforms for Aid Coordination and Partnership Building

FAO has consulted with major donors and development agencies in Moldova related to the agricultural sector. Existing platforms for aid coordination and partnership building resides with the World Bank, USAID, European Commission, IFAD and SIDA who are the major donor agencies in Moldova. There are also platforms where FAO can collaborate with other UN agencies, non-governmental and civil society organizations (NGOs/CSOs) and the private sector in addressing the country's socio-economic challenges.

FAO has also consulted with members of the UN Country Team in the agricultural sector. Based on the CCA, the UNDAF for Moldova is organized around the three core pillars: (i) governance and participation, (ii) access to quality services, and (iii) regional and local development. The regional and local development goal specifically applies to agriculture and is relevant to FAO's mandate. The purpose of a partnership with other donors and with the UN Country Team is to develop common approaches to achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in supporting the government of Moldova in implementing and monitoring the National Development Strategy. FAO can utilize these platforms strategically to enhance its presence in the development community in Moldova.²

2.4 Challenges and Opportunities for Field Programme Development

The FAO Representative³ (FAOR) for Moldova through the Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe has primary responsibility for the development of the field programme in Moldova. The FAOR is assisted by the Multidisciplinary Team in the Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (Budapest), as well as by the FAO National Correspondent in Moldova and technical divisions in Headquarters.

FAO has supported Moldovan Government's efforts to cope with the negative effects of repeated droughts (2000, 2003, 2006 and 2007) by providing emergency assistance to the most affected farmers (supply of agricultural inputs). During the past few years, FAO technical assistance was provided aimed at increasing the national capacities to pilot-test and demonstrate modern small-scale on-farm irrigation technologies in farmer's fields to deal adequately with major epizootic disease outbreaks, to strengthen the capacities of selected national technical staff for an improved disaster risk preparedness and management system at institutional levels.

FAO's current field activities in Moldova have partially been developed as a response to drought emergency situations, partially on the basis of EU integration activities, on the basis of projects combating the Avian Influenza crisis and for assisting with the soaring food price situation. Past and on-going activities include the strengthening of national capabilities of the phytosanitary and agrochemical services and support to agricultural biotechnologies and biosafety (see Annex 3 for a list of FAO operationally active and most recent completed projects). The FAO Investment Centre (TCI) has also been active working in particular in partnership with the World Bank (Rural Investment Services Project – RISP-2) and IFAD (Rural Financial Services and Marketing Programme – RFSMP) and providing policy assistance and involvement in the Hazard Management Study. However, these activities do not reflect FAO's potential capacity and activities as the lead agency in agricultural development.

FAO non-emergency activities have been limited to small-scale projects mainly funded by TCPs suggesting that there is a scope for FAO to up-scale its ongoing effort. In this context, the development of the FAO field programme in Moldova requires FAO to strengthen its field activities through more active collaboration of all the FAO offices, along with more collaboration with FAO's development partners. FAO is prepared/committed to expand its technical assistance support to the needs of the country to develop larger-scale Trust Funds (Unilateral Trust Funds (UTFs) as well as donor funded (GCPs) projects or Global Environmental Facility (GEF) projects in addition to Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs). This will require strategic partnerships and effective resource mobilization.

² In the context of UN-wide cooperation, FAO participation in the formulation of the upcoming Common Country Assessment (CCA) and UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2011–2016 as a member of the UN Country Team would enhance coordination and partnership building.

³ FAO is a NRA in Moldova. The Sub regional Coordinator for Central and Eastern Europe has a double accreditation as FAOR in Moldova and is supported by a National Correspondent in Moldova.

2.5 Priority Focus of the NMTPF in the Republic of Moldova for 2009 to 2011

In this context, the Government of the Republic of Moldova and FAO, through consultative meetings, agreed that FAO should focus on the following **thematic priorities** over the NMTPF cycle, 2009–2011:

- Policies and activities to enhance smallholder agricultural productivity and access to markets resulting in increased incomes and poverty alleviation in the rural sector.
- Management of natural resources and natural livelihood threats in rural Moldova.
- Governance and regulation of public good functions that support market-oriented agriculture, value addition, trade and economic integration.

In addition, the NMTPF strategy on FAO field programme development and resource mobilization consists of the following **operational priorities**:

- Building more effective partnerships with major development partners under the leadership of the UNRC (through joint programmes) in the framework of the UN Reform moving towards ONE-UN.
- Strengthening working relations with government institutions through capacity building activities/on-the-job training.
- Proactively exploring opportunities for further resource mobilization both for bilateral and multilateral cooperation. This includes the development of project pipelines for new donor identification.

With these priorities, the NMTPF serves as a planning and management tool for FAO to take the lead in assisting the Republic of Moldova to achieve its development priorities in the areas of agriculture, food security and rural development. It also allows FAO to effectively collaborate with the Republic of Moldova and its development partners. Therefore, the NMTPF is FAO's major contribution to UNDAF and commitment to the ONE-UN framework.

3. PROPOSED PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

To translate the NMTPF priorities into action, FAO proposes the following programme framework. The activities proposed under each thematic priority are identified based on FAO's comparative advantages and experience in the country as well as the existing critical gap in achieving each thematic goal. FAO continues to utilize its technical expertise and lessons learned in delivering on its mandate — improving agriculture, forestry and fishery practices and ensuring good nutrition for all people in the Republic of Moldova, with special attention to developing rural areas.

In providing technical assistance and advisory services, FAO pays attention to social issues, such as gender inequality and HIV/AIDS. In doing so, FAO will, where relevant, seek synergies with its partner agencies. There will also be efforts to coordinate with other partner agencies with similar mandates to leverage financial, human and knowledge resources. FAO considers such strategic partnership and aid coordination to be critical for ensuring the effectiveness of its field programmes. This would be particularly relevant to assistance in rural areas where people tend to be excluded from basic economic and social services and infrastructure, and their welfare is highly vulnerable to both economic and social pressures.

The aforesaid priorities and the detailed priority programmes proposed hereunder encompass FAO's ongoing and planned interventions envisaged at the time of NMTPF preparation. They do not exclude additional or different interventions that may be considered necessary or requested by the Republic of Moldova in addressing emerging situations or meeting new requirements.

3.1 Policies and activities to enhance smallholder agricultural productivity and access to markets resulting in increased incomes and poverty alleviation in the rural sector.

1. Transformation from Subsistence to Market Oriented Agriculture (SO G)

FAO supports the Governments vision to transform the agricultural and rural sector from a subsistence orientation to a more diversified and modern domestic and export market-oriented system. FAO technical assistance and advisory services will support on-going efforts of the government, in particular, the National Agency for Rural Development, and donor partners to improve productivity and competitiveness through the introduction of modern technology, support for enhancement of agricultural support systems and information management, micro-credit and rural financial services, promotion of agro-processing and value-addition activities, and marketing assistance and market linkage development, that focus mainly on high-value agricultural products. This will be undertaken within the context of value chain development and through encouragement of individual farmer group formation (empowerment of farmers' groups, rural women's groups, water use associations) for resource management and marketing. To this end, FAO will follow-up on (TCP/MOL/3201) - Assistance in Strengthening National Capacity for Identification of Needs, Priorities and Measures to Improve Agri-food Chain Management and Performance, focusing on:

- Support to formulation of policies and programmes to enhance enabling environment for farm commercialisation, agribusiness and rural enterprise development;
- Capacity building and institutional development for establishment of effective farmer-market linkages;
- Support to Government programmes to create enabling environment for investment in agriculture and rural development through public-private partnerships arrangements, building of local linkages and institutions supporting innovation and introduction of agricultural knowledge-based technologies.

2. Land Reform and Management (SO F, OR 4/05)

In 1998, Moldova dissolved collective farms and redistributed farm land and nonland assets to farm employees. Although the land was distributed in a transparent and fair manner, most of the plots distributed were small and highly fragmented resulting in low agricultural productivity. A land re-parcelling pilot component of the World Bank/SIDA assisted Rural Investment and Services Project (RISPII 2006-2010) tackled the land consolidation issue in six pilot municipalities in a first phase (completed February 2009) and in a second phase in 40 pilot municipalities starting April 2009. This activity was supported through FAO/TCI and FAO/NLRA inputs. The land consolidation activities will likely require continued support from FAO. FAO can further support the on-going efforts by the government and donor partners in Land Reform and Management in Moldova by providing assistance for:

- the development of a **land consolidation strategy** (including legal framework for land consolidation), along with the implementation of the 40 new land consolidation projects, which would elaborate how the World Bank/SIDA land re-parcelling pilot would be upgraded to the national level over time.
- the establishment of a farm register and parcel identification system, which is a prerequisite for establishing a national paying agency. The farm register and parcel identification system is required to identify who the eligible farmers are (for "EU like" pillar I (e.g. direct payments) & pillar II support (e.g. rural development support measures)), and what kind of land they have, e.g. pastures, wine yards, etc., in order to assign the correct direct payments.

3. Animal Health (SO B2)

Livestock in Moldova is a source of food security and diversification of rural incomes. Disease is a key constraint to the further development of the sector with problems with trans-boundary communication of diseases. FAO continues to support the control of dangerous animal disease in Moldova. To these ends, FAO will:

- Continue implementation of projects aimed at controlling and monitoring animal diseases
 - assist to increase the conformity of potential livestock trading partners with EU norms/SPS standards relating to animal health status for Avian Influenza, Newcastle Disease, Foot and Mouth Disease, Classical Swine Fever, African Swine Fever
- Assist with the upgrade of laboratory facilities for animal health and veterinary public health services to ensure that they have trained staff, facilities equipment to implement quality assurance measures.
- Assist to develop and implement guidelines and instructions for the official staff involved in the control of food safety and animal health taking into account EC and WTO/SPS requirements.
- Continue to assist Moldova in establishing a sustainable animal health monitoring and control system and build upon the vital support provided by FAO through projects such as the EC/FAO Food Security Programme-Phase II for the “Development of EU Standards in Animal and Holding Identification” and the “Development of an Animal Disease Surveillance and Alert System (RAS)”.

4. Aquaculture (SO B)

About 80% of Moldova’s freshwater fish is harvested from farmer owned or rented aquaculture ponds of which there are 27,000 ha in production. Aquaculture fish production, mainly carp species, is a round 5,000 tonnes/year. FAO has provided technical assistance for the improvement of information sharing and support to the piscicultural enterprises of the country through the EASTFISH regional project “Piscicultural Marketing and Information Services for the East European Countries”. USAID has provided foreign assistance to aquaculture in the form of conducting HACCP training, training of HACCP instructors, training of fish farmers, providing information and marketing support, and providing assistance in organizing of the Fish Farmer’s Association (Propiscicola). Fish seed production research in the country is conducted at the State Enterprise “Acvacultura Moldova”. One major constraint to increased fish production is the difficulty that fish farmers have in obtaining good fish seed stock for the ponds. Technical assistance can be given by FAO to assist in the development of good quality seed stock, hatchery training with emphasis on genetic preservation of natural and fast growing strains, efficient stocking and management programmes, optimizing of production to the local conditions of water quality and available feed and nutrients, by providing support in implementation of new fish reproduction technologies, and the artificial propagation and preservation of the gene pool of valuable fish species.

3.2 Management of Natural Resources and Natural Livelihood Threats in Rural Moldova.

1. Pasture and Grazing Land Improvement and Management (SO F)

Livestock is the basis for the livelihood in many rural communities. Large areas of pasture and grazing land are communal and under the direct control of village councils but it is unclear as to

what the councils management responsibilities are. Little, if any, grazing management is practiced - there are no restrictions on the number and type of animals that can be grazed or when or how long animals can be grazed. Stocking rates are often too high and pastures are thus often over-grazed - especially in times of severe weather conditions such as drought. Although village councils charge a fee for pasture and grazing land use, the funds rarely find their way back into pasture and grazing land management or improvements. Thus there are no financial resources, incentives or mechanism available to utilize best practices or to improve the quality and production from these communal pastures. FAO can provide technical assistance to identify interventions at the village council level to empower the use funds for best practice management. Interventions to be considered include policy and administrative frameworks for governing the use and management of communal pasture land, so as to improve productivity, carrying capacity, including establishing policy on grazing season. In addition, improved management of reserve pasturelands lands should allow for increased and organized production of winter forage, and possibly the formation of grazing associations. This would result in improved pasture and grazing land productivity, thereby improving livestock productivity and small-scale livestock farm household income.

2. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (SO I, F)

Moldova agriculture suffers from key natural hazards which include erosion and land slides, recurrent severe droughts, floods and severe weather (heavy rain, hail, wind and frost). Recent droughts in 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2007 devastated agricultural production and severely decreased food security and rural livelihoods. The effects of climate change are likely to exacerbate the present natural risk situation. FAO will continue to work with the Government of Moldova and donor partners on all aspects of climate change and disaster risk management as identified by the Hazard Management Study (World Bank, May 2007). Support can be given to the modification of farming systems practices through improved water management and small scale irrigation initiatives, plant breeding research, soil erosion land management, moisture retention measures – minimum tillage, and through improved weather forecasting drought monitoring linked to contingency planning and insurance mechanisms. Activities may also include strengthening of institutional and legal frameworks to better cope with climate change and disaster risk management and mitigation and enhancing coordination activities among key line departments and between national and international organizations.

3. Increasing Capacity for Monitoring the Quality of Natural Resources (SO F)

As Moldova embarks in more ecosystem friendly agriculture and safer agricultural products, there is an increased need for building capacity for monitoring the success of agricultural practices, the compliance of agricultural products with specifications of their potential markets as well as to monitor the performance of activities to adapt to climate variability and change. Although Moldova has a number of institutions which are related to monitoring their current capacity, there is also a need for building institutional networks which can result in a coordinated strategy to monitor the use of natural resources and agricultural products at national level. FAO through AGP has initiated work on building capacity for soil analysis which could be expanded to water, pesticides and food monitoring.

3.3 Governance and Regulation of Public Good Functions that Support Market-Oriented Agriculture, Value Addition, Trade and Economic Integration.

1. Assistance to EU Integration (SO G, OR 02/03 and SO D, OR 04/04)

Legal, financial and regulatory framework for EU integration focusing on agriculture and rural development that encompasses Food Safety (sanitary and phytosanitary capacity building), avian influenza, pesticide and plant quarantine systems and management, and agriculture and rural development policy advice.

The Ministry of Agriculture of Moldova has requested, as follow up to training workshops on introduction to preparations to European integration in agriculture and rural development, implemented in 2007 by SEU, more capacity building activities in preparation for (i) alignment of national policies with integration agreements to be negotiated with the European Commission and (ii) institution building and staff development for negotiations, based on (iii) presentation of actual preparations and negotiations experience of present New Member States.

The capacity building will be implemented through up to three workshops, designed and tailored to selected groups of up to thirty Ministry staff and up to twenty invited outside specialists, including representatives of the academia and private sector, depending on their role and involvement in work with EU missions. It will focus on (i) review and explanation of present EU Common Agricultural Policy support programmes and implications of CAP reforms for prospective member states, (ii) building national institutions, including a policy analysis unit attached to the ministry and data/statistics information systems to support elaboration of materials needed for the negotiations and (iii) inclusion of rural development policies into the mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture, assuming that first and soft EU funding will be available for the equivalent of CAP Pillar Two programmes.

2. Food Safety, Pesticide Management and Plant Quarantine Systems (SO D)

The Government has identified Food Safety, Pesticide Management and Plant Quarantine systems as a very high priority which is not only liked to domestic concerns but also to the area of EU Integration and international trade. Two collaborative efforts are currently in process:

- *Strengthening of Phytosanitary and Agrochemical Services (TCP/MOL/3103)*. The overall objective of the project is to assist the Government to strengthen national capabilities: i) on matters related to plant protection and agrochemical services, specifically on pesticide management, including introduction to the Code of Conduct on Use and Distribution of Pesticides, FAO Pesticide specifications, and Maximum Limit Residues on food; ii) on Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including questions related to the participatory work with farmers, including women participation in pest monitoring in the field, and prevention of new pest problems; and iii) on control of soil fertility, plant nutrient management and use of bio-organic-mineral fertilizers. The Plant protection, agrochemical services portion has been completed and FAO will continue to work with the Government to complete the remaining two items.
- *Strengthening the Food Control System to Support the Emerging Food Business Sector*. Through the FAO Food Quality and Standards Service (AGNS), Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, and REU and SEU, FAO will support the government and related donor partner on-going and future projects to strengthen and improve food safety and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) management that will strengthen official food control, facilitate participation in international trade and the support of the emerging food business sector in the country

3. Assistance to the 2010 Agricultural Census (SO H, OR 04)

The first General Census of Agriculture is proposed for July 2010 (Government decision no. 992, 3 September 2007). Funding for the whole 2010 census is being considered by SIDA - Swedish Development Agency (80%) and the Government (20%). Previous assistance had been given by the Survey and Statistical Development Service, FAO Statistics Division (ESS) in 2006 to review preparations for a census, review the methodology and assist the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to prepare a census proposal. The NBS carried out a pilot census in Causeni Rayon in October 2008 in preparation for the 2010 census. FAO will further assist the NBS to carry out the 2010 census if the funding for the whole census, as it appears at this stage, is confirmed. FAO is

proposing a technical assistance component to be partially funded by SIDA (US\$750,000) and partially by an FAO TCP (US\$300,000). The formulation of the TCP by ESS will define in detail the exact nature of FAO technical assistance which will involve training, materials for training, and implementation and data processing technical assistance.

4. Seed Sector Development (SO A, OR 04)

Formerly, Moldova was a main seed supplier (cereals, vegetables, sunflower and hybrid maize) to the USSR but the sector was severely affected by the transition in the 1990s. The seed sector has rebounded and has resumed seed production and sales. Although the seed sector is fairly well organized and the seed Law of 2000 will soon be replaced by the new seed law (at the approval stage), the sector faces many constraints in multiplying good quality genetic material from the research stage to domestic farmers and for export. FAO can assist registered seed producers through technical assistance as described in the FAO/AGPS concept document “Seed Sector Development in the Republic of Moldova”. Technical assistance (as identified by the LeCoent 2008 Concept Document) could be in the form of reviewing the national seed sector strategy, providing capacity building to the National Seed Association and to the Seed Inspection Service to ensure it meets ISTA and OECD requirements. There is also a need for capacity building within the State Commission for Crop Varieties Testing and Registration to ensure compliance with international standards and requirements. Agricultural research institutes who produce elite and super elite seed can be strengthened through training and the supply of advanced seed processing equipment.

5. Plant Genetic Resources (SO F, OR 03)

The conservation of biodiversity of Moldova agriculture is one of the priorities of the Government. The Government of Moldova requests assistance aimed at strengthening the use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA). The overall outcome would be well-trained and informed experts capable of managing Moldova’s PGRFA program. To achieve this, the following project outputs may be envisaged:

- Stakeholder discussion and information exchange of technology transfer experiences and priority setting of the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
- Training of local scientists on the collection and use of PGRFA including the establishment of a data base and data base management system. The training of scientists on the application of biotechnology tools to enhance the use of PGRFA.
- Production of technical publications on issues related to PGRFA in the local language.
- Establishment of a national programme for PGRFA conservation and use.

6. Agricultural Biotechnology and Biosafety – Organic Agriculture/Coexistence (SO F, OR 06)

Organic farming is a priority in Moldavian agriculture with a view of the EU accession and a potential market niche for Moldavian agricultural products. To create a comfortable environment for the organic sector, the Government of Moldova should enable the implementation of a respective strategy, which, in addition to implementing EC harmonized legislative framework for organic farming, should also encompass country’s specific co-existence⁴ rules, measures and

⁴ Co-existence, in the EC document “COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION of 23 July 2003 on guidelines for the development of national strategies and best practices to ensure the co-existence of genetically modified crops with conventional and organic farming”, is regarded as a management and economic issue, consisting of the ability of the agricultural sector to maintain several production lines and supply chains: organic, conventional and based on genetically modified crops. The EC document states explicitly that “No form of agriculture, be it conventional, organic, or agriculture using GMOs, should be excluded in the European Union” in order to assure high degree of consumer choice.

policy. To ensure adequate and cost effective segregation and maintenance of the three separate agricultural production supply chains, the Moldavian Government may wish to request assistance from FAO through projects to:

- Strengthen its human resources, infrastructure and institutional capacities in the field of GMO detection and labeling, including sampling; enforcement through inspections; training of farmers and administration⁵ ;
- Undertake a study on co-existence, taking into account national legislation, agricultural and economic benefits and priorities. The study should assess Moldavian agriculture and farming system and the feasibility of co-existence of conventional, GM and organic production; analyze the opportunities and challenges in this sector; develop a framework discussion paper agreed with all relevant stakeholders to be presented to the Government.

FAO and the REU respectively, have a long term experience in the above mentioned areas that was demonstrated through the implementation of several TCP projects in the region.

4 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Implementation of FAO's future activities is subject to the availability of required funding, largely depending on financial support from the donors, while a minor share of the requirements can be provided from FAO's own resources subject to confirmation of eligibility of the proposals against TCP Criteria. FAO will make an additional effort to mobilize resources to support the implementation of the NMTPF 2009–2011, which, in turn, will be the FAO input into UNDAF for the Republic of Moldova 2007-2011.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova is expected to provide counterpart contributions in terms of the provision of human resources, project offices, access to information and statistics and import duty exemption for equipment and supplies procured in support of FAO-executed projects.

5 IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The FAO NMTPF 2009 to 2011 for the Republic of Moldova is co-owned by the government of the Republic of Moldova and FAO. Accordingly, implementation of the NMTPF will be pursued in close consultation and collaboration with the concerned ministries and national institutions. With delegated authority, as conferred in the context of FAO's decentralization policy, The FAO Representative for Moldova and the Sub-Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe will take leadership and responsibility for the implementation of the NMTPF on behalf of FAO. The Sub-Regional Office, in turn, will receive full support of the inter-disciplinary Country Task Force of technical officers at FAO headquarters, the National Correspondent Office in Moldova, and from the Regional Office in Budapest for technical areas not covered by the sub-regional office.

Given that most of the proposed activities of the NMTPF will be implemented by or in close collaboration with the MAFI, the ministry will have the responsibility for overall coordination of the implementation of the NMTPF. As for monitoring and evaluation, it is recommended that a steering committee be established to periodically review and advise on progress in the implementation of the NMTPF, with membership comprising senior officials, project team leaders and the National Correspondent Office in Moldova. As both the mandates of FAO and the NMTPF are multisectoral, involving working relations with several concerned ministries, it appears most appropriate to seek collaboration from other ministries for the steering committee and periodic reviews of the NMTPF. As the NMTPF is of a rolling nature, such periodic reviews should be undertaken every two years, or earlier if necessary.

⁵ The on-going regional TCP/RER/3102 project is currently supporting capacity building in biotechnologies and biosafety.

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ANNEX 1

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AGNS	FAO Food Quality and Standards Service
AGP	FAO Plant Production and Protection Division
AGPS	FAO Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Service
CCA	Common Country Assessment
COSOP	IFAD Country Strategic Opportunities Program
ESS	FAO Statistics Division
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAOR	FAO Country Representative
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GHPs	Good Hygienic Practices
GMPs	Good Manufacturing Practices
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
IACS	Integrated Administration and Control System
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
ISTA	International Seed Testing Association
LPIS	Land Parcel Identification System
MAFI	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NBS	Moldova National Bureau of Statistics
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NLRA	FAO Land Tenure and Management Unit
NMTPF	National Medium-term Priority Framework
NPA	National Paying Agency
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
REU	FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
SEU	FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe
OR	FAO Organizational Result
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SO	FAO Strategic Objective
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures
TCI	FAO Investment Centre Division, Technical Cooperation Department
TCP	FAO Technical Cooperation Program
TCPF	FAO Technical Cooperation Program Facility
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
UTF	Unilateral Trust Fund
WB	World Bank

ANNEX 2

MAJOR DONOR AGENCY ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS IN MOLDOVA

Institution	Activities and Projects in Moldova
The World Bank	<p>1. Preparation of New Country Partnership Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Focus on: (i) Food security (ii) Food safety, (iii) Agriculture productivity enhancement , and (iv) Land fragmentation issues <p>2. Current World Bank Projects</p> <p><u>Rural Investment and Services Project (RISPII) 2006-2010</u> Co-financed by Swedish SIDA</p> <p>The overall objective of the project is to assist Moldova in promoting sustainable growth and reducing its high level of poverty.</p> <p>(i) Rural Advisory Services Component Support to the National Rural Development Agency (ACSA). 35 regional service providers, 80% of the villages covered. Assist farmers with production, economic, and legal advice. Support to end in 2010 thus WB now working on a strategy for ACSA to independently provide services after 2010.</p> <p>(ii) Rural Business Development Services Component Assist individuals who do not have the technical skills to develop proposals and business plans. Carried out by local NGOs. Created 2000 new businesses so far.</p> <p>(iii) Rural Finance Component Credit Line of USD 12 million through commercial banks (about 25% goes to agricultural projects). Financing of new business ventures.</p> <p>(iv) Land Re-Parceling Pilots Component The project involves 6 pilot projects in 6 villages working on the consolidation of fragmented land ownership. Assisted by FAO/TCIE.</p> <p>(v) Drought Adaptation Component (special added program under RISPII, USD 6million) Provides targeted investments for small-scale on-farm irrigation and the provision of technical assistance to farmers on drought adaptation. Mostly for equipment – drip, sprinklers, drag hoses. Based on bankable projects proposed by farmers – they pay the first 80% borrowed and then the last 20% is forgiven (basically pays the interest). The special program has just been ratified by parliament.</p> <p><u>Avian Influenza Control and Human Pandemic Preparedness Project (2006-2009)</u> USD 10.6 million</p> <p>The objective is to minimize the threat posed by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).</p> <p>(i) Animal Health: Surveillance of HPAI – Lab equipment and training</p> <p>(ii) Human Health: Strengthen response capability – Lab equipment, vaccines.</p> <p>(iii) Public Awareness and Information</p> <p>(iv) Implementation Support and Monitoring & Evaluation</p>
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)	<p>1. <u>Agricultural Policy Project 2006-2008</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructuring the Ministry of Agriculture – regulatory reform, budget and central administration reform – compatible with EU standards (laws & regulations to be reviewed). • Privatization of the Veterinarian Service • Assist ACSA to become independent after 2010. <p>2. <u>Agriculture Development Project (ADP) 2004-2009</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA to assist building of Value Chains (i) ensure agribusinesses have access to market information for new product lines, (ii) establish and strengthen competitive agribusiness, (iii) improve farmer capacity to produce product volume and quality for export, (iv) establish producer and industry associations. Work with ACSA – implemented by CNFA. 100 demo sites focused on developing high value agriculture. 3,000 farmers go through each site/year. Focused on exporting products. • Millennium Challenge Cooperation (MCC) USD 50-70 million for new and rehabilitation of irrigation. Mission to come in July/August to write proposal. USAID will provide TA. <p>3. <u>Competitiveness Enhancement & Enterprise Development (CEED) 2005-2010</u></p> <p>Enterprise development (work with companies) focused on non-agricultural activities in rural areas – Textiles & apparel, information and communication, the wine sector (after Russian embargo on Moldovan wine – established a wine guild, promoted new wine brands, developing a market in German – now export small quantities to the EU). This project will finish in 2010 but will likely be extended.</p>

<p>European Commission to Moldova</p>	<p>EU assistance mainly focused is on trade related issues of agriculture and food products.</p> <p>Current Projects:</p> <p><u>Export Promotion and Investment Attraction Project (Euro 1.6 mil)</u></p> <p>(i) Export Promotion Activities (ii) Development of food Laboratory Capacity (Phytosanitary). Refurbish. Equip National Food Products Laboratory, the three Regional Food Laboratories, and a Cereal Laboratory (seed production). Also provide training.</p> <p><u>Reorganization of the Veterinary Food Certification Service</u> (within the Veterinary Department of MAFI.</p> <p>Proposed Projects:</p> <p><u>1. Phytosanitary Norms and Standards for Agriculture</u> Looking at basic and secondary legislation. Proposed as a twinning project involving MAFI. A project is currently being developed.</p> <p><u>2. Geographical Indicators Project.</u> Law passed that products can be branded with Geographical Indicators. Will organize as a twinning project and will include training. The project will start at the beginning of 2009 over two years.</p> <p><u>3. Soaring Food Prices</u> Brussels is now considering some sustainable programs focusing on structural reform policies in the agricultural sector but in the early stages of development.</p>
<p>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</p>	<p>The UNDP assistance programme is outlined in The United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2007-2011 (UNDAF) and in the UNDP Moldova Country Programme Action Plan. The UNDAF provides a framework and describes three collective priorities for the UN System, in its cooperation with Government and civil society partners: (i) Governance & Participation,(ii) Access to Quality Services, (iii) Regional & Local Development</p>
<p>International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</p>	<p>IFAD's development strategy for Moldova is expressed in the Country Strategic Opportunities Program (COSOP) which covers the period 2007-2012.</p> <p>The overall strategic goal is the further development of a poverty-reducing rural market economy based on family-owned and managed on- and off-farm businesses and achieved through two Strategic Objectives:</p> <p>(i) Establishing pro-poor market Linkages (ii) Promoting access to rural financial services</p> <p>Recently Completed Projects</p> <p><u>Rural Finance and Small Enterprise Development Project (RFSEDP) 2000-2005</u></p> <p>(i) Support for Savings and Credit Associations providing access to lending and savings for those who did not have access to financial services (ii) Provision of small enterprise development loans (up to USD 100,000) for well-established SMEs attempting to expand their enterprises and/or modernize equipment. Over 470 business plans prepared with 330 successfully securing loans.</p> <p>Current Projects</p> <p><u>1. Agriculture Revitalization Project (ARP) 2006-2013 USD 15 million</u> Building on the RFSEDP experience. Objective is to provide funds for financial services to help poor farmers increase their incomes – the project provides programmes at the country level in a participatory manner through village development plans through three components: (i) Participatory Community Development,(ii) Institutional Capacity Building, (iii) Community Economic Investments</p> <p><u>2. Rural Business Development Programme (RBDP) 2006-2011 USD 13million</u> The objective is to establish a series of investment products and mechanisms through the formal financial sector that targets small and medium scale farmers, entrepreneurs, agro-processors, input suppliers, traders and commodity groups: (i) Rural enterprise Brokerage Services, (ii) Rural Financial Services, and (iii) Market Derived Infrastructure Investment</p> <p>3. Proposed Projects</p> <p><u>Rural Financial Services and Marketing Programme (RFSMP) 2009-2014 (USD 13m)</u> The goal would be to reduce rural poverty through creating enabling conditions for the poorer and poorest members of rural society to increase their incomes through greater access to markets and employment. The components include: (i) Value Chain Development for Rural Poverty Reduction, (ii) Rural Financial Services, (iii) Pro-Poor Market Derived Infrastructure, (iv) Programme Management</p>

<p>Swedish Development Agency (SIDA)</p>	<p>The SIDA Moldova Country Strategy 2007-2010 focuses on: (i) Good Governance (Public, (ii) Finance Management, Human Rights, Democracy, Anti-Corruption, (iii) Energy Sector, (iv) Social Assistance, Employment (phased out in 2010), and (v) Rural Development</p> <p><u>Current and Completed Projects Under Rural Development:</u></p> <p>1. Technical Assistance to the Agency of Land Relation and Cadastre of the Republic of Moldova 2006-2009. SEK 10.5 million (USD 1.75 million). The specific objective is the establishment of a transparent, efficient and effective cadastral system which provides cadastral and registration services at an affordable cost for all users. Expected results: (i) an institutionally strengthened and sustainable cadastral system, (ii) established capacity for a real property valuation system, (iii) developed and tested methodology for cadastral data use by local administration offices, (iv) a centralized reliable cadastral information system designed, developed, tested and implemented, (v) improved quality of cadastral register and data management.</p> <p>2. World Bank Rural Investment Services Project II 2006-2010 (Swedish co-financing contribution SEK 48 million USD 8.0 million). (See World Bank above)</p> <p>3. SE European Development Programme on Plant Genetic Resources, SEEDNet. 2006-2007. SEK 4.2 million (USD 0.7 million). The project was initiated in the Western Balkans and Moldova joined later. The aim was to strengthen the national programs for Plant Genetic Resources and to support regional solutions and regional cooperation. Training in biodiversity/plant genetic resources was carried out by The Centre for Biological Diversity at the Swedish University of Agricultural Studies.</p> <p><u>Project Under Preparation</u></p> <p><u>Rural Competitiveness Programme</u> (In cooperation with DFID, EBRD and WB (to be confirmed)). Main objectives identification of conditions for rural development, improving business climate, enlarging export opportunities. Further studies will determine the program but the following components have been defined: (i) regional development, (ii) SMEs, (iii) trade policy, (iv) continuation of WB RISP activities, and (v) agricultural census.</p>
<p>Japanese 2KR Project (JICA)</p>	<p>Assistance to Underprivileged Farmers (known as the Japanese 2KR Project) The project supplies agricultural machinery (tractors, combines, irrigation equipment, and some implements). The project tenders for machinery, pays for them using Japanese funds, imports them into Moldova and then sells the machinery to Moldovan farmers usually on the basis of 25% down plus 25% payments in each of the following three years.</p>

ANNEX 3

MOLDOVA: OPERATIONALLY ACTIVE AND COMPLETED FAO PROJECTS

Symbol	Title	Beginning Date	Ending Date
TCP/MOL/3101	Agriculture census, TA requirements to strengthen phytosanitary capabilities, Strengthen capacity to participate in European Integration Consultations, FAO/WFP needs assessment.	Aug 2006	Dec 2008
TCP/MOL/3201	Implementation of NMTPF and Assistance to improving agri-food chain Management and performance	Jun 2008	Dec 2009
TCP/MOL/3102	Assistance to restore winter wheat crop production and strengthen capacities to cope with the effects of adverse climatic events	Sep 2006	Dec 2008
TCP/MOL/3103	Strengthening phytosanitary and agrochemical services	Jul 2008	Oct 2009
TCP/MOL/3202	Input supply to vulnerable populations under the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP)	Oct 2008	Sep 2009
TFD-02/MOL/001	Reorganization of a Mini-Farm for Sheep and Pigs Breeding	Nov 2003	Nov 2004
TFD-02/MOL/002	Sheep Breeding and Products Processing	Nov 2003	Nov 2004
TFD-02/MOL/003	Fish Breeding and Processing	Feb 2004	Feb 2005
TFD-03/MOL/001	Farm Reorganization for Fish Breeding and Products Processing	Mar 2005	Mar 2006
TFD-05/MOL/001	Rabbit Breeding	Jun 2007	Jun 2008
OSRO/MOL/701/ITA	Emergency Assistance to Drought Affected Livestock Smallholders in Southern and Central regions	Oct 2007	Jul 2008
OSRO/MOL/801/F	Emergency distribution of maize seed to drought-affected farmers in Moldova and coordination of agriculture assistance	Feb 2008	Oct 2008
GCP /MOL/001/AUS	Emergency Assistance to Flood Affected Rural Farming Households	Nov 2008	Nov 2009
MOL/07/001/ /01/99	Relief and Technical Assistance Response to the Drought in Moldova	Sep 2007	Aug 2008
TCP/RER/3102	Capacity building in agriculture biotechnologies and biosafety (Moldova, Georgia, Armenia)	Nov 2007	Oct 2009
OSRO/GLO/702/CAN	Regional: FAO's Global programme for highly pathogenic avian influenza control and eradication	Mar 2007	Apr 2010
GCP/INT/062/GFF	Capacity building on Obsolete and POPs Pesticides in EECCA countries	Apr 2009	Sep 2001