

# Rural employment and decent work at FAO

## News from the Web



“Eradicate poverty and hunger” is the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG) set out by world leaders in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000). It includes the target 1.B “Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people”. Decent rural employment is key to achieving food security and alleviating poverty. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has committed, through its Strategic Framework, to ensure that decent rural employment creation is integrated into agricultural and rural development policies, programmes and partnerships.

This issue shares some of the work that FAO carried out during the second half of 2011 on gender-equitable decent rural employment for poverty reduction and food security, in terms of normative work, technical cooperation and capacity development, as well as advocacy and strategic partnerships.

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### Sida-funded intervention in Malawi and Tanzania (2011-2013)

FAO continues to implement the three-year country-level intervention in Malawi and Tanzania “Policy support on rural employment and decent work towards equitable and sustainable livelihoods under conditions of climate change” (2011-13), funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

### Capacity Needs Assessment on Rural Employment & Decent Work in Malawi & Tanzania

In late 2011, FAO’s Decent Rural Employment Team (DRET) carried out a Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) on Rural Employment and Decent Work (RE&DW) among key stakeholders, including governmental institutions, relevant CSOs, main producers’ and employers’ organizations, as well as selected UN agencies. A mapping of policies, institutions and knowledge gaps related to RE&DW was conducted prior to the CNA. The CNA focused on the assessment of four functional capacities (policy, knowledge, partnering and implementation) to identify capacity needs and strengths of key national stakeholders related to RE&DW. The CNA was carried out through in-depth individual and group discussions, focus groups and workshops with over 140 decision/

policy-makers from more than 50 institutions in both countries. Priorities for capacity development were jointly



identified and agreed upon, involving both interventions in the short term (up to 1 year) and the medium-term (1-3 years). For instance, the CNA

participants identified the need for capacity development workshops on specific policy-related topics as one of the priorities. The first of these workshops will be implemented, in collaboration with ILO, in April 2012 in both Malawi and Tanzania.

### More and better jobs for rural youth

FAO promotes youth employment and entrepreneurship development, especially in rural areas, through targeted development strategies, policies and programmes.

### Launch of TCP Tunisia

In Tunisia, youth unemployment and high prevalence of vulnerable employment, especially in West end Central regions, have been the major cause of the revolution. The political upheaval in the country and in Libya has worsened the situation. For the success of



the democratic transition process the Government of Tunisia needs to effectively respond to this situation. To support this process, FAO has launched, jointly with APIA (Agence de Promotion des Investissements Agricoles), an emergency technical support project for the creation of micro-enterprises in the agricultural sector for young vulnerable people.

The project will train the beneficiaries using the Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) methodology and will support national and local institutions to build their capacities in the field of employment and to develop a long term program for job creation in agriculture.

For more information: [www.fao-ilo.org](http://www.fao-ilo.org)



### UNIDO General Conference – Youth Participation in the Inclusive Economic Development of the Arab Region

The year 2011 started with a series of dramatic changes in the Middle East and North Africa Region. These are believed to be the result of unequal access to economic opportunities and social welfare as well as high unemployment rates, mainly among the youth. Over the next decade, the Arab economies are expected to provide gainful employment to millions of people, to alleviate poverty, and to address food and water insecurity. The changes occurring in the region have convinced the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), together with regional and specialized institutions, to put youth and development at the top of the agenda to accelerate programmes for job creation and to sustain inclusive economic growth patterns. Within this context, UNIDO organized an Expert Group Meeting and an Arab Round Table in which FAO participated. The meeting aimed to discuss the opportunities and challenges for youth entrepreneurship, and to identify strategic responses that effectively ensure youth participation in the economic development and growth in the region.

For more information: [www.unido.org](http://www.unido.org)

## Preventing and reducing child labour

### Supporting stakeholders in Mali to address child labour in agriculture

In January 2011, FAO and the ILO, on behalf of the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCLA), brought agricultural and labour stakeholders together to develop a joint roadmap for addressing child labour in agriculture. In June 2011, the Government of Mali approved a national plan to eliminate child labour by 2020, placing child labour high on the political agenda.

In support of the implementation of the roadmap, the Partnership organized action research on child labour in the rice and cotton value chains. The study revealed that the majority of children, aged 5-17, were working (97% in cotton- and 75% in rice-producing areas). Both boys and girls were involved from crop production to processing, mainly in weeding, sowing, ploughing and harvesting, whereas rice transplanting and household chores were mainly done by girls. The study found a negative impact of child labour on school participation and health.

Technologies and practices with the potential to reduce child labour identified in the study included the proper training of work oxen, mechanized rice planters and seeders, reduction of pesticides (Integrated Production and Pest Management) and pooling of equipment and services, e.g. animal keeping. Group-based learning promoted in Farmer Field Schools (FFS) was identified as an efficient tool to promote adoption of new technologies and practices.

To start turning recommendations into action, the Ministry of Agriculture led the organization of a national workshop on child labour in agriculture in December 2011 (supported by the National Child Labour Unit, FAO and the ILO). A mechanism was also proposed to monitor the implementation of the 2012 joint workplan developed at the workshop.

FAO aims to support specific activities in the workplan such as the integration of child labour concerns in FFS, agricultural training centres or youth vocational training camps, and the piloting of alternative agricultural technologies and practices.



### FAO-ILO good practice guide for addressing child labour in fisheries & aquaculture: policy & practice

FAO and the ILO have released the preliminary version of a guidance document that aims to help

policymakers and government authorities tackle the issue of child labour in fisheries and aquaculture. Activities in which children engage can range from actively fishing, cooking on boats, bailing water, diving for reef fish or to free snagged nets, herding fish into nets, peeling shrimp

or cleaning fish and crabs, repairing nets, sorting, unloading, and transporting catches, and processing or selling fish. While some of these activities are dangerous, others are not. The guidance document aims to help in distinguishing between acceptable forms of children's work in fisheries and child labour



that is harmful to children's healthy development and education. It also provides practical suggestions for mainstreaming child labour considerations into relevant policies, strategies and action plans. FAO is currently seeking public feedback on this document.

For more information: [www.fao-ilo.org](http://www.fao-ilo.org)

## Other news ...

### Expert and Inter-agency Meeting on "Broadening coherence & collaboration for rural development through employment and decent work"

In November 2011, FAO participated in the Expert and Inter-agency Technical Meeting on "Broadening coherence and collaboration for rural development through employment and decent work" held at IFAD Headquarters in Rome, Italy. The event, organized by ILO and UNDESA in collaboration with FAO and IFAD, was attended by participants from UN agencies, governmental bodies, civil society, the private sector, media and academia. The meeting aimed to agree on coordination and joint work among international and national actors to unleash rural development through employment and decent work. FAO's contribution emphasized the link between decent work and food security; the persistence of decent work deficits in rural areas, especially among youth; and the need for integrated approaches to support global, regional and national processes, linking to existing interventions and funding mechanisms. More specifically, FAO highlighted the imperative of transforming knowledge into action and targeting youth, especially in the areas of training, entrepreneurship skills and facilitating access to land, credit and markets. An outcome of the meeting was the design of seven concrete proposals for joint action; one of these being an employment intervention for rural youth in sub-Saharan Africa.

### ILO 12<sup>th</sup> African Regional Meeting

In October 2011, FAO participated in the ILO 12<sup>th</sup> African Regional Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, serving on the panel for the thematic discussion on "Rural employment, industrial development and structural transformation as a path



of decent work". FAO highlighted the fact that two thirds of the sub-Saharan African workforce is concentrated in rural areas and that decent work is the most sustainable and dignified means of food procurement, social inclusion and long-term food security. FAO's contribution to the conference focused on the need to create decent work for rural youth and to prevent and reduce

child labour, over 60% of which is in agricultural. With respect to the FAO-ILO partnership, there was recognition that the CAADP process and the renewed global interest in the agriculture sector present rich opportunities for future collaboration between the two agencies, particularly given their commonality and complementarities in vision.

### OECD 2012 Experts' Meeting "Promoting Youth Employment in Africa"

In January 2012, FAO participated in an Experts' Meeting organised by the OECD Development Centre to inform the forthcoming thematic chapter of the 2012 African Economic Outlook on "Promoting youth employment in Africa". FAO provided technical inputs and contributed with a presentation on policy recommendations to promote decent youth employment in rural areas. FAO highlighted the importance of focusing on the specific constraints young women and men face in rural areas, underlining also the linkages between youth employment promotion and child labour prevention. Among the suggested policy recommendations, FAO stressed the need for integrated approaches, such as FAO's Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) approach, to tackle issues of unemployment, underemployment and working poverty among African youth.

### Second Global AgriKnowledge Share Fair

The Second Global AgriKnowledge Share Fair was hosted by IFAD in Rome, Italy, in September 2011 and provided a vibrant knowledge and experience sharing forum on emerging trends related to agriculture, climate change, food security, mobile technology, social media, and on fostering collaboration for innovative rural development. The event was attended by civil society organizations, UN agencies and government representatives. FAO presented its strategic country intervention approach to promote decent rural employment at country level, with a particular focus on the work in Malawi and Tanzania. The presentation was followed by a lively and informative discussion on the importance of decent rural employment for promoting food security and eradicating poverty.



### Introducing two new members of the DRET

Since September 2011, two young professionals have joined the Decent Rural Employment Team (DRET): Athifa Ali and Nora Kokanova, commencing their duties in the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Accra, and the FAO Tanzania Country Office in Dar es Salaam, respectively. Let's hear from them!

### **Athifa Ali, Junior Professional Officer (JPO) in RAF**

Athifa Ali, – a Maldivian national – joined the DRET as Rural Employment Officer and is based in Accra, Ghana, at the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF). Prior to her appointment, she was working with the Emergency Centre for Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) as an Operations Officer. Before joining FAO, Athifa worked with the Maldivian Ministry of Planning and National Development for over four years, where she actively participated in the formulation and implementation of the National Recovery and Reconstruction Programme after the 2004 Tsunami. She also spent a number of years doing field work in Cambodia, Peru and Haiti in the areas of gender and rural development. Athifa will liaise between the Regional Office and headquarters in ensuring decent rural employment issues are adequately reflected within the work of the Regional Office, including the mainstreaming of RE&DW in the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) framework. Athifa will also act as an alternate gender-focal point at the regional office.

### **Nora Kokanova, Associate Professional Officer (APO) in Tanzania**

Nora Kokanova – a Swedish national – is joining FAO as Decent Rural Employment and Gender Equality Officer in Tanzania. She is well familiar with the region after three years with the UN system in Rwanda. She worked in enhancing the effectiveness of the Delivering as One programme on the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. Nora will support the implementation of the strategic country intervention approach on gender-equitable decent rural employment in Tanzania. In particular, she will provide support in advocating for and mainstreaming gender-equitable decent rural employment for greater policy coherence. In collaboration with DRET, she will provide technical support to policy and programme formulation within the FAO country office and the wider UN Delivering as One context, as well as within national policy frameworks.

## Recent publications:

### ***Gender and rural employment: Differentiated pathways out of poverty and seven related policy briefs***



These publications represent a first step in providing policy makers, development practitioners, civil society and private sector organizations, workers' and employers' organizations, the UN, donors and researchers, with an up-to-date analyses of the issue, examples of innovative success stories and a menu of policy options.

<http://www.fao-ilo.org/publications3/workshop/en/>

### ***The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11: Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development***



The *State of Food and Agriculture*, FAO's major annual flagship publication, aims at bringing balanced, science-based assessments of important issues in the field of food and agriculture. While the annual issue stresses the significant contributions to the rural economy in all developing country regions, this year's report highlights the importance of closing the gender gap in agriculture to achieve food security and reduce poverty.

[www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e.pdf)

### ***Guidance on how to address rural employment and decent work concerns in FAO country activities and Quick Reference***



These documents are designed to provide key conceptual information, important tools and examples of concrete actions to enable FAO country staff to address rural employment and decent work within their work programmes, projects and activities.

[http://www.fao-ilo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/fao\\_ilo/pdf/DecentWorkGuidance\\_impagWEB\\_DEF.pdf](http://www.fao-ilo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/fao_ilo/pdf/DecentWorkGuidance_impagWEB_DEF.pdf)

### ***Promoting employment and entrepreneurship for vulnerable youths in West Bank and Gaza Strip***



This case study describes FAO activities to improve youth skills and abilities to generate income in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It also emphasizes the role of women's associations and the creation of youth farmers' clubs grouping Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) graduates in the rural areas, which can help to establish a stable basis for rural people to gain voice and representation.

[www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1450e/i1450e00.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1450e/i1450e00.pdf)

### ***FAO-ILO Good practice guide for addressing child labour in fisheries and aquaculture: policy and practice. Preliminary version***



This guidance document presents the situation of child labour in fisheries and aquaculture and underlines the need for action, aiming to help policymakers and government authorities tackle the issue of child labour in the sector. The current document is a preliminary version and feedback is solicited by 30 April 2012.

[http://www.fao-ilo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/fao\\_ilo/pdf/FAO-ILOGuidelines\\_child\\_labour\\_in\\_fisheries\\_and\\_aquaculture\\_Policy\\_practice\\_Preliminary\\_version.pdf](http://www.fao-ilo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/fao_ilo/pdf/FAO-ILOGuidelines_child_labour_in_fisheries_and_aquaculture_Policy_practice_Preliminary_version.pdf)