



©FAO

The issue

The sustainable development of food and agriculture systems is critical to achieving nearly all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is crucial to ending poverty and hunger, fighting malnutrition and obesity, ensuring gender equality and decent jobs, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies and halting environmental degradation and climate change.

Both the food and agriculture agenda and the SDG agenda are mutually reinforcing. On the one hand, food and agriculture needs to be better mainstreamed into national development strategies and SDG action plans. Now is the time to act, as countries undertake SDG-related assessments and amend national policies, strategies, budgetary frameworks and investment plans. On the other hand, agriculture and food systems need a transformational change to ensure that they make a broad-based contribution to SDG targets.

Awareness and capacity are needed across governments and among key stakeholders in the various agricultural and food sectors, so that the SDGs are consistently integrated into action plans, investment programmes and projects. Actions need to take place at all levels, but particularly at local level, where key results can be realized by engaging and mobilizing communities, producer organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders.

The action

The objective of this programme is to support countries in mainstreaming food and agriculture into SDG-related strategies and action plans. It also aims to enhance capacity, mobilizing investment and momentum for implementation across the sectors in question, together with FAO's partners from the global to local levels.

The direct beneficiaries will include those national government bodies responsible for SDG implementation, relevant line ministries, institutions and stakeholders, including non-governmental and private-sector organizations involved in implementation in selected jurisdictions.

COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR THE SDGs: POLICY

Integrated Policy Support

Assisting countries to transform food and agriculture to achieve the SDGs

The issue in numbers



107
countries have reported on SDG implementation since 2016



50%
of the agricultural labour force in developing countries is female



Around **33%**
of all food is lost or wasted, according to estimates

Programme targets



20
National Development Plans incorporate food and agriculture as a key element



80
experts per country in 25 countries working on SDG implementation



30
national food and agriculture-related policies, programmes or investment plans aligned with SDGs

The budget



USD 7.5 million



3 years



31 countries

Expected results

In partner countries:

- Food and agriculture integrated as a key element of national development strategies and SDG action plans;
- Food and agriculture-related sectoral policies, programmes and investment plans aligned with SDGs;
- Capacity of SDG coordination bodies, line ministries and authorities strengthened to integrate SDGs into action plans, investment plans and projects in agriculture and food-related sectors;
- Engagement and investment by the local community, producers, and the private sector, civil society and academia mobilized through a whole-society approach to SDG Policy Assistance, including at local level;
- Food and agriculture adequately covered in Voluntary National Review reports.

At regional level:

- Enhanced policy dialogue, in addition to knowledge and good-practice exchange, including through South-South collaboration.

Geographic focus

Africa: Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania, Togo and Zambia

Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine

Latin America and Caribbean: Costa Rica, Cuba and El Salvador

Near East: Egypt and Morocco

In partnership with

National ministries and bodies, including producer organizations and the private sector, NGOs, academia and local institutions, regional bodies, such as the African Union, regional development banks (such the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), FAO regional bureaus, the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the World Bank.

SDG contribution



SDG policy assistance in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a global champion of SDG implementation. FAO is supporting the country at every major stage in its development journey to meet the SDGs: (1) data-gap analysis for SDGs; (2) the country's National Action Plan to achieve the SDGs; (3) an SDG financing strategy and investment programme; (4) a monitoring and evaluation framework; (5) capacity development to mainstream SDGs into line-ministry planning and target setting in Annual Performance Agreements; (6) an SDG whole-of-society approach and SDG localization; (7) mobilizing investment by the private sector to implement SDGs in food and agriculture and (8) a Voluntary National Review of the SDGs. This ensures that the food and agriculture sectors make a meaningful contribution to achieving Bangladesh's ambitious targets. It also speeds up the transition of the country's agriculture and food systems to sustainability.



Why invest?

It is widely acknowledged that SDG targets cannot be met without addressing the challenges being faced by agriculture and food systems. A sector-wide approach is needed. FAO believes that the adoption of SDGs at national level marks a critical juncture for engaging governments and key stakeholders in the transformation of food and agriculture. This programme offers countries step-by-step support so that they can integrate SDGs consistently across sectors, in addition to capacity development for implementation. Supporting the transformation of food and agriculture, plus associated sectors, will accelerate the achievement of key SDG targets, particularly those related to hunger and food security, poverty reduction, rural development, sustainable agriculture and the management of natural resources.

CONTACT:

Gustavo Gonzalez
 Director, FAO Business Development and Resource Mobilization Division (PSR)
 Gustavo.Gonzalez@fao.org

Clayton Campagnolla
 FAO Strategic Programme Leader, Sustainable Agriculture (SP2)
 Clayton.Campagnolla@fao.org



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence