



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

## PORTUGAL AND FAO

### PARTNERING FOR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

The FAO Information Office in Lisbon, Portugal, promotes visibility and strengthened relations between FAO and key partners, including the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) and its Member States. The Government of Portugal and FAO are now stepping up their collaboration through the upgrading of the Information Office to a Partnership and Liaison Office for Portugal and CPLP countries. The new Office will support the Executive Secretariat of the CPLP in promoting and expanding the Strategy of Food Security and Nutrition of the CPLP, while building capacity for technical staff from Member States, promoting the Mediterranean diet and developing a knowledge network on family farming and sustainable agriculture.

#### Hunger-free Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries

As part of a joint effort between FAO and the CPLP, FAO is contributing to reduce the prevalence of hunger and malnutrition among CPLP countries, advancing food security and nutrition. Key partners of this initiative include the Executive Secretariat of the CPLP based in Lisbon, ESAN-CPLP's Permanent Technical Secretariat, members of the Council of Food and Nutrition Security (CONSAN-CPLP), the CPLP Parliamentarian Assembly, national policy makers and family farming organizations. The network involves 500 organizations and farmers' platforms, which represent over 15 million farmers globally. This initiative has enabled a more effective implementation of the CPLP Regional Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition. Additional achievements include the development of national food security and nutrition strategies and the establishment of intersectoral and multistakeholder national councils in many Member States.

The project has also promoted capacity building for 120 participants from national FSN councils from Cabo Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea-Bissau and Timor-Leste. Knowledge exchange sessions on agro-ecology, family farming and public food procurement, including school feeding programmes, were also organized.

#### CONTACT

**Mr Francisco Sarmiento**  
**Senior Liaison Officer**

FAO Information Office for Portugal and the CPLP  
Palácio Conde de Penafiel  
Rua de São Mamede (ao Caldas), 21  
1100-533 Lisbon, Portugal  
Tel: +351 213 928 564  
Email: [fao-pt@fao.org](mailto:fao-pt@fao.org)

#### Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries

The CPLP is an intergovernmental, multi-regional organization founded in 1996 by its nine Member States: Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and Timor-Leste.

With a total population of approximately 285 million people, the Community shares common historical and cultural ties, whilst encompassing countries with widely diverse characteristics and levels of human development. All these features make the CPLP an ideal forum for dialogue, consultation, convergence and knowledge exchange across four continents bringing to FAO unique opportunities for developing new tools and instruments while promoting South-South, North-South and Triangular Cooperation.

In the last decade, the CPLP has played an increasingly important role in development cooperation, a crucial area for food security and nutrition (FSN). With FAO's support, most CPLP countries have now developed national food security and nutrition strategies and established multi sectoral and multidisciplinary councils.

At the regional level, the Strategy of Food Security and Nutrition of the CPLP (ESAN-CPLP) was approved in 2012. Its primary objectives are to intensify cooperation among Member States and to improve governance on FSN policies. ESAN-CPLP is based on the human right to adequate food, prioritizing family farmers and vulnerable groups.

## Promoting family farming and sustainable development in the CPLP

Family farming is the basis of the Strategy of Food Security and Nutrition of the CPLP (ESAN-CPLP). After its approval in 2012, the Strategy prioritized the creation of a multistakeholder working group for family farming (FFWG), able to gather the technical

“Together, we have already done a lot in favor of food security and nutrition in the CPLP arena.”

**FAO Director-General**

and financial means for the development of a set of Guidelines aimed at supporting and promoting family farming in CPLP countries. Following the Guidelines' approval, a high level meeting on Family Farming and

Sustainable Development in the CPLP was held in Lisbon, in February 2018. Recent key achievements include the agreement on priority steps to achieve regional coordination and implementation of the Guidelines. Priority steps include the need to recognize family farmers in each national context, increase the efficiency and effectiveness of policies which address them, and the development of a legal framework and related public policies.

The development of these institutional tools recognizes the crucial role played by family farmers in ensuring food security and nutrition and social cohesion, as well as the need to increase their resilience to tackle the impacts of climate change.

## Facilitating social participation in food security and nutrition policies

FAO has supported CPLP countries in the establishment of Councils of Food Security and Nutrition. Thus, in July 2018, Portugal became the first European country to establish a National Council of Food Security and Nutrition (CONSANP), a multisectoral platform mobilizing governments, civil society, business and academia, with the aim to contribute to the realization of the human right to adequate food in Portugal. The Council is also committed to fostering an integrated view on matters relating to food security and nutrition, ensuring convergence, coherence and social participation in the development and implementation of public policies.

## Knowledge exchange on sustainable food systems and diets

In 2013, Portugal led the international initiative to have the Mediterranean Diet included in the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity promoted by UNESCO. In 2018, in order to mobilize different actors for the revitalisation and preservation of the Mediterranean Diet in Portugal, the Portuguese Government signed a Protocol for the establishment of a Centre of Competency for the Mediterranean Diet (CCDM). FAO played a significant role in this process and the FAO Information office is now working in collaboration with the Portuguese Government on a multi country funding application entitled "Revitalisation of the Mediterranean Diet for the Promotion of Sustainable Food Systems" for submission to the European Economic Area and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation.

12/2018



©FAO



©FAO