

FAO Country Programming Framework for Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2012-2016)

1. The Technical Cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture representing the Government of Saudi Arabia and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (TCP) has started since 1950. The TCP has taken a quantum leap with the development of the Unilateral Trust Fund Agreement (UTF) which was signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1982. The Agreement was renewed every 5 years thereafter until the current Technical Cooperation Agreement (TCP 2011-2016). The TCP 2011-2016 represents the Country Programming Framework 2012-2016 (CPF 2012-2016) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The TCP 2011-2016 includes 16 development projects covering a wide range of agricultural activities including horticulture, irrigation, plant health, animal production, fisheries and rural development. The projects were prepared following extensive consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders. Priority areas were identified through these consultations addressing the strategic objectives of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy of the Kingdom up to 2030 (SADS-2030) and the goals of the Long Term Strategy for Saudi Economy up to 2024 (LTS-2024) which included successive 5-years National Development Plans until 2024 (NDPs).

2. The TCP 2011-2016 targets the relevant strategic objectives/goals of the LTS-2024), the SADS-2030 and the successive NDPs which incorporates key points of the MDGs on eradication of poverty and Hunger, Ensuring Environmental Sustainability and Develop a Global Partnership for Development. All successive TCPs represent consolidated advanced steps to strengthen the strategic objectives of the Ministry of Agriculture that aim to increase food production, stabilize food security, preserve natural resources and rationalize their usage to meet the needs of current and future generations. The priority areas of the TCP guided by the priorities and strategic objectives of the Ministry of Agriculture are consistent with the strategic orientations of FAO at the global level and FAO's sub-regional and regional priorities. The UN system in KSA analyses the country development situation through the Country Analysis (CA) and identifies priorities for an innovative UNCCSF for Saudi Arabia (2011-2015). Based on KSA's NCC Status, the UNCT in the Kingdom is not required to develop a full UNDAF, but has voluntarily agreed to simplify the UNDAF methodology for the UNCCSF. The CA analysed and incorporated into the UNCCSF key issues and key areas/priorities such as: Inclusive Growth and Employment; Governance; Quality Social Protection and Social Services and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and the Environment. In concert with the Ninth NP themes and objectives, the CA analysis has further divided key issues of Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and the Environment into:

- Climate Change and Energy
- Water Resources and Agriculture
- Harmful Substances and Hazardous Wastes
- Biodiversity Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment

3. The strategic vision for agricultural development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is expected to be achieved through realization of four strategic objectives, namely:

- **Efficient and sustainable use of agricultural and natural resources, especially water and environmental conservation:** includes 3 pillars addressing development of management of water resources, development of management of agricultural lands, range, forestry and natural parks resources.
- **Contribute to achieving sustainable food security:** includes 3 pillars targeting development of agricultural production and productivity according to comparative advantage of regions, strengthening competitive capacity for agricultural products and stabilization of markets and management of marketing risks..
- **Improve institutional and human capacity necessary to manage and implement sustainable agricultural and rural development:** includes 2 pillars addressing strengthening institutional and human capacities at the Ministry of Agriculture and strengthening institutional capacities for agricultural corporates and farmers practices.

- **Achieve sustainable and integrated agricultural and rural development and eradicate poverty:** includes 2 pillars addressing improvement of livelihood of rural inhabitants and support agricultural and rural services for small farmers and infrastructure.

4. The financial budget allotted for the implementation of the TCP 2011-2016 is approximately USD 67 million. This budget covers 16 projects to be implemented over 5 years.

The TCP between the Ministry of Agriculture in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and FAO was already signed on 17 May 2012. Fourteen projects are successfully progressing with full support of the Ministry of Agriculture which stands ready to address any emerging unforeseen needs. Two projects are under processing/clearances.

**For the Government of Kingdom of Saudi
Arabia**

**For the Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations**