



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

MAURITANIA AND FAO

PARTNERING TO BUILD RESILIENCE AND FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

Cooperation between FAO and Mauritania dates back to the country's independence in 1960. Since an FAO representation was opened in 1978, assistance has continued to evolve, with core technical interventions complemented by support to resource mobilization. There has been an increasing emphasis on strengthening institutions and partnerships, mainly through the development of strategies, programmes and investment projects designed to achieve improved food security and nutrition; sustainable crop, livestock and fisheries production; water resource management; and environmental protection.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN MAURITANIA

Established in 1978, the FAO Representation in Mauritania is pleased to be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Opening of the National Camel Breeding Centre

Located very near Nouakchott, Mauritania's new National Camel Breeding Centre was inaugurated in December 2016 by the President of the Republic. The opening ceremony was attended by members of the Government, senior state officials, representatives of the diplomatic corps and civil society. Funded by the Government of Mauritania and FAO, the Centre has been set up to increase camel production through genetics, particularly through the use of biotechnologies, including artificial insemination and embryo transfer techniques.

The dromedary plays a key role in Mauritania's economic and social life, so the Centre is of paramount importance, especially for the production of milk and milk by-products as well as wool.

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Matching FAO's expertise to Mauritania's needs

FAO assistance in Mauritania is shaped by the four-year **2017-2021 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, which focuses on four priority areas:

- ➔ **Supporting inclusive and sustainable agricultural, livestock and fisheries production** to create employment and strengthen the technical and operational capacities of rural people.
- ➔ **Promoting an enabling institutional environment for achieving food security and nutrition** through the diversification of food systems and the development of a nutrition-sensitive agricultural policy.
- ➔ **Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources for a sustainable and resilient economy in the face of climate change**, in particular through capacity building for local communities and the effective management of ecosystems.

Jointly developed with the Government and other development partners, the CPF reflects relevant national development policies, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and National Food Security Strategy. It is also aligned with the UN Development Assistance Framework for Mauritania and contributes to FAO's regional priorities and Strategic Objectives.

Cooperation for Desert Locust control

The Desert Locust is a pest that affects agricultural and pastoral production and has a negative impact on food security. It contributes to poverty and triggers the migration of farmers to urban and peri-urban centres. Mauritania has experienced several periods of locust invasions, when a general mobilization of civilian and military land and air resources was required to address the emergency situation.

In 1995, Mauritania established its National Centre for Locust Control (CNLA), which works in collaboration with FAO and the Desert Locust Information Centre. Mauritania is a member of the FAO Desert Locust Control Committee for the Western Region and also of the EMPRES Programme. It has benefited from 30 locust projects, which have served to strengthen information and surveillance systems, improve field equipment and test new pesticides.

A prime example of a successful project is the Norwegian-funded intervention "Improving Pesticide Application Techniques for Desert Locust Control". This locust control component of the EMPRES Programme has been successful in helping to reduce the use of pesticides in the country.

With the assistance of FAO and other partners, including the World Bank, CNLA's results were recognized in 2000 by the World Expo, which awarded projects in the fields of Nature, Humanity and Technology.

In 2017, the Government of Mauritania and FAO signed a USD 500 000 emergency project (under the Technical Cooperation Programme) aimed at further strengthening CNLA's field survey and control methods.

Promoting small pelagic fish production

Mauritania and FAO are working jointly to promote small pelagic fish production through the introduction of conservation techniques and the development of a test programme for improving processed products. A project was carried out in collaboration with the NGO "Muftah EL Khair".

Results achieved included: the use of conservation techniques for fish species such as machoiron, captain, sardinella and mullet; training for members of the NGO and other associated cooperatives on conservation techniques, including salting, drying, smoking and braising; the distribution and trading of processed fish in disadvantaged neighbourhoods of Nouakchott and; the development of a new technology for fish conservation.

The project was part of a capacity building process for small-scale fishing stakeholders and the sustainable management of pelagic fisheries resources. Several other projects have been implemented with the support of FAO through an EU-funded project aimed at developing artisanal fisheries.

Cooperation in the fight against red palm weevil

The red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*, is causing extensive damage to the date palm in the Middle East and Gulf countries. It was detected for the first time in Mauritania in 2015 in the Tidjikja oasis. Responding to the Mauritanian Government's request for support, in 2016-2017, FAO staged a number of field missions as part of the project "Emergency Assistance to Control the Red Palm Weevil in the Oases of Mauritania".

"Improving agricultural and food systems is essential for a world with both healthier people and healthier ecosystems."

FAO Director-General

Emergency equipment was provided and training sessions were organized in Tidjikja. And, as part of a subregional project to manage the Red Palm Weevil in North Africa, a team from the Mauritanian Ministry of Agriculture received training aimed at stepping up consolidation of the country's quarantine regulatory framework.

A palm cleaning programme, using FAO tools, has also been conducted and a geographic information system and dedicated communication strategy have been developed. All communication media treating the subject now bear the ministerial decree concerning the fight against the red palm weevil. All these projects owe their success to the implementation of a participatory management programme including all actors.



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