



Libya and FAO

Increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

The cooperation programme between FAO and Libya began in 2009 with the signing of a US\$71 million agreement. Assistance has included policy advice and technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, contributing to sustainable agricultural development, food security and economic development, including diversification, in line with national priorities and goals.

Cooperation through capacity building

Transboundary animal disease control

The spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Libya is having a negative impact on farmers and the country's economy overall. To help address this challenge, an FAO capacity building project is strengthening the capacity of veterinarians, laboratory technicians and animal health assistants in key areas such as surveillance, diagnosis, biosecurity and biosafety and management of eventual disease outbreaks. Other major objectives include awareness raising of populations most at risk, along with the development and implementation of contingency plans.

Project: Emergency Assistance for the Control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Poultry and other Domestic Birds (2015-2016).

Food safety and quality control

FAO has been contributing to efforts to improve Libya's national Food Safety and Quality Control system, predominantly through capacity-building activities.

Plant protection support

Through plant protection and related capacity-building activities, FAO is assisting the Agricultural Authority in its response to a recent outbreak of the Palm Weevil.

Matching FAO's technical expertise to Libya's development priorities

The strategic orientation for FAO's assistance to Libya revolves around five areas:

- Plant resources
- Livestock resources
- Fisheries and marine resources
- Agricultural natural resources
- Assuring an enabling environment

Linked with the above areas, the following strategic priorities have been jointly identified and agreed:

- Achieving sustainable increases in crop productivity and raising levels of food safety and phytosanitary standards
- Achieving sustainable improvements in livestock productivity
- Increasing sustainable development and use of fisheries and marine resources
- Expanding the sustainable management and use of natural agricultural resources
- Building capacities and knowledge management
- Improving services to support the agriculture sector.

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Programme Management Unit

Given the comprehensive scope and large scale of FAO's technical cooperation agreement with Libya, a unit was created to manage the programme from Libya. The PMU ensures synergy and efficiency in the coordination, implementation and monitoring of the overall Programme. It has the financial and administrative mandate to manage and implement activities in a way that ensures improved implementation and coordination of joint interventions among different sectors and projects.

Resilience building for food security and nutrition

The initiative "Building Resilience for Enhanced Food Security and Nutrition in the Near East and North Africa" has been designed to support the region's countries in their efforts to improve national food security and nutrition while also promoting social cohesion. As one of the countries participating in this initiative, Libya aims to build the capacity of families, communities, and agricultural systems to be prepared for the negative impact of human-induced and natural disasters, manage the effects when they occur, and ensure rapid recovery in the aftermath.

Small-scale agriculture for inclusive development

This initiative provides a coherent framework to promote smallholder agriculture as a means of reducing poverty in the countries of the Near East and North Africa, including Libya. At the institutional level the initiative facilitates coordination among participating countries in the aim of establishing policy and institutional frameworks conducive to the eradication of hunger, and to the achievement of improved food security and nutrition.

Defining projects in the context of climate change

Past activities in Libya have included support for the formulation of potential projects to be funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Activities focused on the definition of priority areas in line with FAO's mandate, with an emphasis on issues related to climate change, biodiversity and land degradation. While currently on hold, discussions held earlier with GEF, the UN Environment Conventions, and national authorities and other stakeholders, aimed at identifying sustainable land, watershed and forestry management projects.

Addressing water scarcity in the region

FAO has developed a programme to help countries coordinate and harmonize their policies, governance mechanisms and practices relating to management of water. The "Regional Initiative on Water Scarcity in the Near East and North Africa" comprises a collaborative strategy aimed at achieving the sustainable management of agricultural water resources. It is implemented in the form of a regional partnership among multiple stakeholders and is of relevance to Libya, although it is currently a focus country for the initiative.

"Improving agricultural and food systems is essential for a world where people enjoy good health and where the health of ecosystems is improving."

**José Graziano da Silva,
FAO Director-General**

