



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Zimbabwe and FAO

Partnering for sustainable agriculture and policy development

Zimbabwe and FAO have partnered in development since the country joined the Organization in 1981. Cooperation has grown in recent years, with interventions ranging from capacity development at the institutional level as well as for extension staff and farmers to the creation of market linkages and a conducive policy environment. In providing assistance, FAO focuses on improving income opportunities, strengthening food and nutrition security, and developing sound policies across agriculture-related sectors, including forestry and fisheries.

Supporting policy formulation and implementation

Policy formulation and implementation is one of the key features of cooperation between Zimbabwe and FAO. In consultations with stakeholders at national and subnational levels, FAO is supporting the formulation and development of national policies (livestock, forestry, irrigation and mechanization) and strategies (integrated pest management, management of migratory pests, foot-and-mouth disease, and management of transboundary crop and animal pests and diseases). At the same time, FAO enables the Government and other stakeholders to formulate sectoral and cross-sectoral policy frameworks, strategies and investment plans. Further support has been geared towards implementation of the national Food and Nutrition Security Policy, through strengthened nutrition governance and the establishment of multisectoral coordination committees.

Zimbabwe benefits from FIRST: Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation – under the FAO and European Union partnership programme. Within this context, a Senior Policy Officer is being recruited to provide guidance on policy assistance and capacity development, as well as to facilitate policy dialogue on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.

Funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), the Livelihoods and Food Security Programme is applying its programme experience to create a support system for policy research and evidence-based policy making. These initiatives will enhance the scope of FAO support to the Government.

Matching FAO's expertise to Zimbabwe's development priorities

FAO assistance in the country is shaped by the 2016-2020 Country Programming Framework (CPF), which outlines three priority areas:

- Strengthening policy and institutional frameworks
- Enhancing agricultural productivity and competitiveness
- Increasing resilience and uptake of Climate Smart Agriculture

Jointly developed with the Government, the private sector, development partners and civil society, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies.

CONTACT

FAO Subregional Office for Southern Africa
and FAO Representation in Zimbabwe
Block 1, Tendeseka Office Park - Corner Samora Machel Ave
& Renfrew Rd, Eastlea, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel.: +263-4-253655
E-mail: FAO-SFS@fao.org



5/2018/2

©FAO

Promoting sustainable agricultural productivity and competitiveness

Empowering smallholder farming households to increase their voice as well as their organization capacities is paramount to enhancing their resilience and chances of pursuing farming as a business. With this in mind, the FAO country programme has supported farmer organizations who are benefiting from economies of scale and engaging better with market actors. These groups are also conduits for disseminating market information and for delivering farmer training in appropriate technologies.

In Zimbabwe, FAO has helped develop the capacities of over 5 000 farmer groups, including committees and associations for agricultural commodities, saving and loans schemes, nutrition issues, and irrigation management and livestock development.

A total of 28 679 people (60 percent women) were trained in good agricultural practices. Efforts in the livestock sector have been dedicated to the promotion of improved housing and handling infrastructure and feedlot and animal health practices, among others.

"Sustainable agriculture is crucial for future food security."

FAO Director-General

Nutrition information and training was provided to more than 20 000 farmers (85 percent women), with a focus on exclusive

breastfeeding, optimal complementary feeding, appropriate hygiene practices, food preservation techniques and the production and consumption of nutritious foods.

With DFID funding, FAO is supporting financial institutions and microfinance institutions in introducing, designing and scaling up financial services to smallholder farmers, including women and youth. In collaboration with DCA/USAID, FAO has also designed the Refinance and Partial Guarantee facility, which are two instruments aimed at increasing financial inclusion of smallholder farmers and value chain actors.

Improving capacities for resilience and vulnerability analysis

FAO in Zimbabwe plays a pivotal role in the generation of high-quality data through its support to surveys, particularly crop, livestock and rural livelihood assessments.

The Organization has supported the development of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRR/M) plans covering five districts, as well as National Early Warning Systems and the production and distribution of agricultural and food security bulletins.

The Government continues to receive FAO's support in the institutionalization of Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). The IPC system aims to provide decision-makers with a rigorous tool for food insecurity analysis in both emergency and development contexts in addition to the coordination of improved response interventions. As one of the pilot countries for the IPC Chronic Prototype tool, Zimbabwe – with its 60 rural districts – has undergone IPC chronic analysis.

Another key area of FAO assistance is in information systems, where the Organization has supported the establishment of a national food and nutrition security information system and knowledge-sharing platform within the Food and Nutrition Council. In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development (MAMID), the establishment of the Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool (FPMAT) has also been initiated.

Aiming to mitigate the effects of the poor 2014/15 rainfall season in the southern region of the country, with funding from UN CERF, FAO provided livestock survival feed and drought-tolerant seeds (sorghum and cowpea) to 14 000 households in 7 districts.

As part of the Disaster Risk Reduction Programme, with financial support from the European Union and the Swedish Development Cooperation, FAO is supporting the rehabilitation of 3 400 ha of smallholder irrigation land for sustainably increasing production, productivity and competitiveness of smallholder irrigated agriculture in targeted schemes in communal and old resettlement areas of Zimbabwe.

