



The Republic of Sudan and FAO

Partnering to strengthen agricultural systems, productivity and disaster risk management

FAO and the Sudan enjoy a clearly structured partnership shaped by the Country Programming Framework. Over the years, FAO assistance has covered the full spectrum of agricultural development, including support to statistical systems, by means of selected interventions targeting priority areas identified by the country and region. Key features of cooperation include the formulation of policy and regulatory frameworks as well as capacity building for competitiveness and natural resources and disaster risk management.

Policy support

In partnership with line ministries – the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, the Ministry of Animal Resources, the Ministry of Environment –, other ministries, agencies and stakeholders, FAO is working to achieve resilient livelihoods for sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition.

As part of its policy support to Sudan, the Organization has recently assisted in the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) process to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods in the country. Technical support has been provided for development of the National Agriculture Investment Plan, which has been officially endorsed by the government.

FAO has also played an important role in producing a number of policy papers and developing food security and nutrition strategies for the Red Sea, Gedarf, Kassala and Blue Nile states.

FAO technical expertise aligned with Sudan's development priorities

The strategic orientation of assistance provided by FAO to Sudan is guided by the **Country Programming Framework 2012-2016** laid down in partnership with the government and other stakeholders. The focus is on four priority areas:

- **Policy development and strengthening of agricultural statistics**, concentrating on consolidating policies, laws, planning, information, and reform of institutions, systems, and mechanisms in the agricultural sector.
- **Enhancing productivity, production, and competitiveness**; this focuses on the enhancement of productivity, production and competitiveness of the agricultural sector by strengthening and supporting of agricultural research institutions through funding and international cooperation; strengthening of extension services institutions; supply of relevant technological inputs that enhance agricultural productivity and competitiveness of crop production, livestock, and forestry; and improvement of productivity of agricultural farming systems, livestock, fisheries, and forestry.
- **Conservation and development of natural resources** which focuses on the development of forest, range land, and pasture; implementation of the Gum Arabic Belt program; and improvement of land use and agricultural practices to maintain soil fertility, prevent soil erosion, and control degradation of natural resources.
- **Disaster risk management** and concern for issues of gender equality, nutrition and other vital issues, which focuses on capacity building of disaster risk management institutions, systems and mechanisms in agriculture by development of DRM legal and policy framework in food security and capacity for line ministries, partners, and community organizations for implementation; development of early warning system and monitoring for better response to agricultural threats and emergencies; improvement of disaster preparedness strategies and capacities for effective response and recovery; dissemination and application of improved technologies and practices in farming, livestock, fisheries, forestry and natural resources to vulnerable households; and increased monitoring capacity and veterinary services for better disease outbreak management.

Capacity building is viewed as an integral part in all defined areas of cooperation. The CPF in Sudan is based on results-based management, and benefits from FAO's strategic results framework. The country work plan includes five pillars: the strategic goals of FAO and results of regulation; expected results and outputs of the unit; indicators and responsible units; use of the work plan as a reference tool for the decision making process and to take corrective measures; and learning lessons to introduce future improvement.

New CPF formulation

Consultations and drafting of a new CPF are underway.



CONTACTS

Abdi Adan Jama
FAO Representative in Sudan
Block 10, Othman Dinja St.
East Khartoum, Khartoum
PO Box 11171111
Tel.: +249 183779367
Email: FAO-SD@fao.org

Increasing productivity and competitiveness

FAO provided technical support to the preparation of the country's first-ever Comprehensive Agricultural Census. The project goal was to provide timely and reliable data and information on food, agriculture, and animal resources to support the national agricultural development strategy, effective planning and monitoring of the agricultural sector, and food security planning.

FAO is also implementing a project to strengthen freshwater aquaculture production with a view to increasing freshwater fish production and its contribution to national food and nutritional security, rural income generation and export earnings. It leverages appropriate aquaculture technologies and improved management and capacity building in the private and public sectors.

Since a shortage of quality seed is one of the major factors limiting crop productivity, particularly in the Darfur region as well as in Sudan at large, FAO has supported production of community-based quality declared seeds in South Darfur. In collaboration with the Agriculture Research Corporation and the State Ministry of Agriculture, the Organization has introduced recently approved and very promising varieties of important food crops (sorghum and millet), cash crops (sesame and groundnut) and the high value food crop, sweet potato. The project has also established strong linkages among stakeholders (Agricultural bank, Zakat chamber, agro-input traders, etc.) and coordinated activities in quality seed production with international NGO involved in seed distribution to smallholder farmers.

With collaboration between WFP, WHO and FAO, an EU-funded project is seeking to improve the nutritional status of vulnerable and deprived communities in Sudan through large-scale food fortification, home fortification, and the introduction of bio-fortified crops in rural communities. Through this project, FAO will contribute to the creation of regulatory frameworks and standards while promoting the cultivation of nutrient-dense bio-fortified food crop varieties, particularly sorghum which is the lead cereal crop in Sudan in terms of production, consumption and area cultivated. Additionally, FAO will implement a marketing campaign to increase the demand for bio-fortified seeds amongst farmers in the project area.

Another initiative is to strengthen the value chains of fodder, dairy and sheep fattening in east Sudan. It will improve self-reliance and reduce poverty among refugee and host community beneficiaries and promote livelihood diversification skills with a view to increasing food production and income opportunities.

Implementation framework for priority resource development

Under the Darfur Development Strategy and the United Nations Fund for Recovery Reconstruction and Development in Darfur, FAO is leading a Qatari-funded project that supports agriculture and livestock based livelihoods through enhanced access to sustainable water, certified seeds, veterinary and livestock services, and agribusiness skills. Community natural resources management systems are also promoted.

FAO is also supporting the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system in the framework of REDD+ Readiness in Sudan. The design and implementation of the MRV system will include a national forest inventory, a satellite land monitoring system and the strengthening of national government institutions and the institutionalization of the MRV system.

"We cannot improve nutrition without food security; and we cannot achieve food security without food systems."

José Graziano da Silva
FAO Director-General

Disaster risk management and concern for gender equality

FAO is assisting the expansion of opportunities for income generation as a means of increasing beneficiaries' resilience in the face of crises. Women as well as former combatants and homeless people acquire work skills, techniques for food processing (cheese making, fish preservation) and other skills to enhance incomes. At the same time, FAO is assisting with community conflict management and negotiation, including campaigns to encourage peaceful co-existence between farmers and pastoralists, with a focus on mutual interests in protecting crops and means of transhumance. There is also a focus on preventing the destruction of animal crops and campaigns to help restore trust and community dialogue and resolve disputes by means of inter-ethnic village committees. Additional initiatives include environmental activities to improve practices and division of natural resources. For example, women are trained to make, use and sell fuel-efficient stoves to gain income.

