



# Guinea and FAO

## *Strengthening resilience and ensuring sustainable food security and nutrition*

Cooperation between FAO and Guinea dates back to 1977 when FAO opened its country office. With the aim of achieving sustainable food security, interventions have focused on reducing extreme poverty and increasing agricultural productivity through support to national policymaking and development projects. The Government recently showed its renewed endorsement of these goals by committing to make the rural sector a development priority. In the face of natural disasters, food price hikes and post-conflict challenges, FAO also provides emergency assistance, including agricultural rehabilitation and disaster risk management.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN

**GUINEA**

**Established in 1977, the FAO Representation in Guinea is pleased to be celebrating its 40th anniversary**

Since 1977, FAO has supported the Government in rural development and natural resource management as well as providing emergency assistance. Cooperation has also involved policy formulation and implementation, including support to Guinea's National Agricultural Development Policy, National Agricultural Investment and Food Security Plan, and Policy Letter for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development.

### **Modernizing the beekeeping industry for higher incomes**

In Guinea, the diversification of income-generating activities has proved to be a strategic priority for sustainable development of the agriculture sector. Given the country's potential for a competitive beekeeping industry, through its Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), FAO is supporting 97 beekeepers' associations and 50 Kenyan artisans in the construction of beehives and acquisition of beekeeping suits, smokers and other honey and beeswax harvesting accessories. The Organization is currently working with the relevant associations to set up honey houses in the most productive areas. In the short term, this technical support will help to substantially improve the beekeeping industry and modernize apiculture, resulting in a sustainable improvements in income for stakeholders.

### **Matching FAO's expertise to Guinea's development priorities**

Assistance in Guinea is shaped by the 2013-2017 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF), which focuses on three priority areas:

- **Strengthening food and nutrition security**, to provide the country's fast-growing population with access to an adequate and diverse range of agricultural products.
- **Strengthening governance of the agriculture and rural sector**, building government capacities and coordination, creating a sound legal framework and supporting the private sector.
- **Risk reduction and management of food crises and disasters, and adaptation to climate change**, with an emphasis on environmental conservation and capacity building.

Jointly developed with the Government and other key partners, the CPF reflects priorities in relevant national policies, including Guinea's Poverty Reduction Strategy, Agricultural Development Policy and National Plan for Agricultural Investment and Food Security.

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## Combating zoonoses and strengthening animal health

Through a USAID-funded programme, FAO is supporting Guinea in implementing the Global Health Security Agenda. Assistance covers i) zoonotic diseases; ii) the national laboratory system; iii) biosecurity and biosafety and; iv) human capacity building. Activities include the development and implementation of priority zoonoses surveillance plans, and refurbishment of the Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Conakry and the regional laboratories of Boké and Beyla. In addition, studies are being conducted on the value chain and behavior of priority zoonoses, as well as risk assessment and mapping through the “One health” approach.

A key objective of the programme is to strengthen human resources capacity in the field of veterinary epidemiology as well as strengthening the Ministry of Livestock’s Emergency Plan for the detection and management of anthrax outbreaks.

## Integrated Pest Management to control caterpillar invasions

Guinea’s Boké region faces a major threat from the urticating caterpillar, which attacks rice. Damage caused by the invasion of this pest is twofold: the caterpillar reduce rice yields and productivity, and farmers can suffer serious physical harm in the form of skin lesions and even paralysis if they come into contact with the urticating hairs of the caterpillar.

To help combat this harmful pest, FAO’s intervention has led to:

- The development of a partnership among the various stakeholders.
- Increased knowledge of the rice caterpillar and alternative methods to chemical control.
- The development of a reference document on the strategy for integrated management of urticating rice caterpillars.
- The establishment of a rice caterpillar surveillance and reporting mechanism.

## Agriculture and livestock census – disseminating the data

FAO is supporting the national statistics system by working with the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock to update the production and dissemination of agro pastoral statistics. The following activities have been carried out in coordination with the two Ministries: (i) preparation of a presidential decree on the National Census of Agriculture and Livestock’s governing bodies; (ii) formulation and finalization of the methodology, technical papers and data processing programmes for the core modules of the Census and ; iii) the

development of a multimedia communication strategy. A round table for producers using the system has been held to ensure their priorities and needs for agro pastoral data are taken into account. Finally, a pilot census has been developed, involving training of national managerial staff.

## South-South Cooperation for sustainable development of rice-based systems

Guinea is participating in the South-South Cooperation Project “Partnership for Systems Development Sustainable Rice in sub-Saharan Africa”, initiated by FAO in partnership with Venezuela. The project aims to set up an efficient rice production system, including the processing and marketing of local rice. Three outcomes are expected, namely scaling-up of proven and tested best practices and technologies, reduction of post-harvest losses and improved irrigated rice systems. Several activities are being carried out in coordination with producer groups in five prefectures. They include the use of improved seeds, the involvement of young people in production, training in preservation and marketing techniques, and the supply of suitable processing equipment (for example, mini rice mills with a capacity of between 900 and 2000 kg/ha).

*“The Zero Hunger Challenge means making sure that all food systems are sustainable and that smallholders - especially women - are able to increase their productivity and incomes.”*

FAO Director-General

