



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# BURKINA FASO AND FAO

## PARTNERING IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY

Burkina Faso and FAO have partnered since the country joined the Organization in the early 1960s. The partnership was consolidated with the establishment of an FAO Representation in 1978, and has focused above all on food and nutrition security, mainly through the provision of technical advice for the development and strengthening of national policies and capacities. FAO's cooperation with Burkina Faso also features resource mobilization for interventions aimed at reducing poverty and building resilient livelihoods.



### CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN BURKINA FASO

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

Improving food security and nutrition and building the resilience of vulnerable populations through rural development have always been at the heart of the Government and FAO's activities. Thanks to its dedicated pool of experts, FAO has assisted the Government in the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and projects.

### International Year of Pulses

In Kongoussi and Ouagadougou, the closing ceremony of the 2016 International Year of Pulses were organized around the theme "Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future". The theme was chosen by the UN General Assembly to highlight the many nutritional and ecological benefits of the pulses family, which comprises more than 18 000 species. FAO was responsible for raising awareness and promoting the international year at the national level.

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### Matching FAO's expertise to Burkina Faso's development priorities

In August 2017, FAO and the Government endorsed the new **Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2017-2020**, which shapes FAO assistance in Burkina Faso. The CPF is centered on the following three priority areas:

- ➔ **Strengthening food security and nutrition and people's resilience to climate change**
- ➔ **Increasing rural communities' incomes through sustainable and efficient agricultural production systems**
- ➔ **Improving governance of the rural sector**

Jointly prepared with the Government and other development partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies, including the **National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES)** and the **National Programme for the Rural Sector (PNRS)**. Fully aligned with the UN Development Assistance Framework for Burkina Faso, the CPF also contributes to FAO's Strategic Objectives.



## FAO-BURKINA FASO COOPERATION Looking back on past achievements

### Promoting non-wood forest products

"Nutrition gardens" have been set up by FAO in cooperation with Burkina Faso, based on the intensive production of *Moringa oleifera* and *Adansonia digitata* (baobab). It was precisely the nutritional value of moringa and baobab products that inspired the term

"nutrition garden".

More than 100 nutrition gardens have been set up by women's organizations in different areas of the country facing chronic food insecurity or cereal deficits.

"Food security and adequate nutrition for all is where sustainable development starts."

FAO Director-General

FAO's interventions have led to the enrichment of foods with moringa, thereby improving the nutritional and health status of children and providing supplies for pharmacological use (e.g. moringa is used for reducing blood pressure and sugar levels, and for treating bronchitis, ear and eye infections, and asthma and prostate diseases). Furthermore, activities have generally raised people's awareness of the positive qualities of moringa and baobab, including their ecological virtues.

### Farmer Field Schools – serving rural areas

Between 1996 and 1997, Burkina Faso benefited from a pilot project providing participatory training in Integrated Plant Production and Pest Management through a Farmer Field School. The concept of Integrated Pest Management is to improve the control of plant pests by reducing the use of chemical pesticides and promoting technologies that are more environment friendly and less harmful to human as well as animal health.

The Farmer Field School approach is an extension system that capitalizes on farmers' expertise by involving producers in all stages of training, problem analysis and identification of the most appropriate solutions. This model of training led to 26 percent increase in average rice yields for the beneficiary producers. The reduction in chemical pesticide use was in the range of 80 percent for rice and 50 percent for vegetable production.

## Creating a network of Chambers of Agriculture

In the 1990s, a lack of capacity among the main actors in Burkina Faso's agriculture sector was identified as a key constraint to the sector's performance. A special emphasis was therefore put on the reform of the country's agricultural services and the profession itself. In 1998, the Government requested FAO's assistance in establishing a network of Chambers of Agriculture through a project valued at US\$ 276 000.

Project activities included support to the drafting of legislation and regulations for the management of the system of Chambers, an outlook study on related financing issues and the elaboration of a communication plan.

## Involving communities in the restoration of degraded lands

There are an estimated 724 000 ha of degraded land in Burkina Faso's Sahelian provinces of Séno and Soum. In order to reduce the depletion of land resources in these provinces, FAO has been collaborating with the European Union as part of the Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahara and the Sahel. Restoration and rehabilitation interventions involving use of "delphino plough" are aimed at soil and water conservation.

## Global knowledge exchange

### Special Programme for Food Security

Initiated in 1994, FAO's Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) was designed to help low-income food-deficit countries improve food security through increased agricultural productivity and food production and a more stable output.

In 1998, a tripartite South-South Cooperation agreement was signed by Burkina, Morocco and FAO. Under the agreement, Moroccan experts contributed to the implementation of water management, livestock and beekeeping projects in Burkina Faso. As a result of this exchange of expertise, together with diversification and adoption of the SPFS approach, production was strengthened and both yields and revenues were increased.

