



Algeria and FAO

Partnering for sustainable agricultural and rural development

Algeria joined FAO in 1963. Since then, the Organization has provided policy and technical assistance in the face of such challenges as rapid population growth, urbanization and rural migration; plant and animal diseases; price volatility; and more recently climate change. Cooperation has also spanned the agriculture and rural sector, ranging from diversification of production, control and prevention of transboundary animal diseases, sustainable natural resource management, and strengthening of sanitary measures to ensure food safety and facilitate trade.

Matching FAO's expertise to Algeria's development priorities

FAO assistance in Algeria is shaped by the 2013-2016 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF), which is centred on three priority areas:

- Sustainable improvements in technical, economic and social performance, for improved agriculture production and achieved food security
- Improved natural resource management, through a better understanding and constant monitoring of the status of agricultural and other natural resources
- Institutional development and capacity building to ensure effective policies for food security management and use of natural resources

Jointly developed with the Government and other partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies concerning agriculture, rural development food and nutrition security, including Algeria's component of the **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)**, the **Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper** and the **Agricultural and Rural Renewal Policy**. The CPF is fully aligned with the UN Development Assistance Framework for Algeria.

Boosting quinoa cultivation

With its remarkable adaptability to different agro-ecological regions and altitude coupled with its natural resistance to arid soils, quinoa is a food crop that can play a crucial role in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. Of Andean origin, quinoa is known for its high nutritional value, especially when used in combination with legumes. Its nutritional as well its agricultural importance has been recognized in Algeria and neighbouring countries, where recurrent droughts and crop pests and diseases have had a devastating effect on the economy, and particularly the agriculture sector. Traditional and long-term cultivation of crops such as wheat, sorghum, millet and barley have led to reduced productivity of cropland, declining crop yields and reduced incomes for farmers.

Building on FAO's practical experience in the production use and marketing of quinoa and quinoa products, an FAO regional project was implemented in selected North African and Near East countries, including Algeria. The country benefited from FAO's technical expertise in assessing the potential for adoption of this non-traditional crop by producers and its acceptance by consumers. The project also made the seeds of suitable varieties available to farming communities in different agro-ecological regions.

Achievements of the intervention included quality and adapted varieties of existing quinoa genetic material along with improved cultivation and harvesting methods. As well as enabling higher quinoa yields, it resulted in a larger basket of strategic food crops. Another major component of the project was the provision of training in improved farm management techniques, not only for quinoa production and but also for cropping systems in general, as well as strengthening of extension service capacities in this area. Training particularly targeted female smallholder farmers responsible for family farming, as well as the local seed businesses and non-governmental organizations. In light of the significant number of women involved in agriculture and considering their role in daily subsistence farming to meet household needs, special attention was given to the active participation of women cooperatives in the project activities.

Project: Technical assistance for the strengthening of the Food system of Quinoa in Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Mauritania, Sudan, and Yemen

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Protecting the Mediterranean Sea

The Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystem face a number of challenges: in addition to adverse environmental factors, they are threatened by unregulated coastal development, population growth, increasing pressure from coastal tourism, and illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. To counter this trend, with the financial support from GEF the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) launched two consecutive projects, which resulted in the preparation of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Mediterranean Sea (TDA-MED) and two Strategic Action Plans (SAPs). Further to this, FAO has implemented a project to promote the Sustainable use of Fisheries Resources in the Mediterranean through Ecosystem-Based Management Approaches as part of a strategic partnership (MedPartnership*). The main objective is to establish an ecosystem approach to fisheries management through the development and implementation of national action plans as well as policy and legislative reforms, and to reduce of by-catch of regionally important species. Algeria is participating in this concerted effort to create an enabling environment for the necessary reforms.

**Project: Strategic Partnership (MedPartnership) for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem. Regional Component: focused on actions for the protection of environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas. Led by UNEP and the World Bank and co-funded by GEF.*

Promoting decent rural employment

Together with other countries in North Africa, Algeria faces the major unemployment challenges, including difficulties in enabling the inclusion of young people – and women – in socio-economic activities. This is despite a decline in the average unemployment rate over the last decade.

Strengthening the contribution of the food and agriculture sector to job creation and to the generation of household incomes leads to lower levels of unemployment and reduced poverty in rural areas, and helps in the promotion of decent agricultural employment for young women and men. It is therefore a key objective for FAO in Algeria. The Organization is supporting the Government in the development of national programmes and plans of action for decent rural employment, enhancing dialogue at the national level and strengthening capacities of the institutions responsible for managing employment policy and the labour market in rural areas.

“Food security and nutrition for all are, together with eradicating extreme poverty, the cornerstones for sustainable development”

José Graziano da Silva
FAO Director-General

Promotion of decent agricultural employment of rural youth in the Maghreb countries. Targeted countries: Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia

