



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# Regional Initiatives for Africa

FAO has focused and integrated its work in the Region through three Regional Initiatives. The Initiatives respond to the priorities of member-states and will achieve demonstrable impact in a time bound manner, whilst responding to FAO's Strategic Objectives. In Africa, the Regional Initiatives were developed based on an in-depth cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary review of regional issues. They call for accelerated action by member countries in the fight against hunger (Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025); promote sustainable proven innovative practices and principles of production and post-production processes (Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development in Africa); and aim at strengthening resilience among vulnerable farming communities and pastoralists (Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands).





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Supporting Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025 with financial commitments to food security and nutrition

- Supported policy dialogue and development of evidence-based nutrition sensitive agriculture policy and investment.
- Developed capacity in preparing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating evidence based policies, investments and programmes on food security and nutrition.
- Assembled and disseminated best practices to improve uptake of knowledge, technologies and good practices, including working with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in establishing an African Centre for Best Practices, Capacity Development and South-South Cooperation.

Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025, responding to the UN Secretary General's Zero Hunger Challenge, supports and capacitates governments in focus countries to engage in multi-sectoral planning, coordinated implementation, monitoring and evaluation with financial commitments to food security and nutrition policies and programmes under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) initiative.

The Malabo Declaration, adopted by African Heads of States in June 2014, with its implementation strategy and roadmap on "Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods" seeks to achieve the 2025 vision of ending hunger in Africa through renewed commitments to biennium accountability on indicators in the CAADP Result Framework. Regional action plans focus on a set of actions at national, sub-regional and continental levels to contribute to achieving the zero hunger goal.

The main expected result is to accelerate and add value to ongoing regional and country efforts through capacity strengthening and inter-sectoral coordination for accountability on investments, with coherent and harmonized programme delivery at all levels.

Starting in 2014, the initial focus for this Regional Initiative was in four countries (Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi and Niger) and was extended in mid-2015 to four additional countries (Chad, Ghana, Kenya and Rwanda) with the following key results:

### Results in 2014-2015

- Improved access to data and information by reinforcing food security and nutrition information systems to inform policy making, mapping of hunger related programmes (Angola and Ethiopia), mainstreaming of key nutrition indicators into the CAADP results and monitoring and evaluation frameworks, capacity development on the minimum dietary diversity score for women (in particular Angola and Niger), and development of an agricultural statistics action plan (Malawi).

### Way forward in 2016-17

In 2016-17, FAO will continue supporting Africa's commitment to end hunger by 2025, building on and adjusting for lessons learned in 2014-15.

More emphasis will also be placed on establishing an African Center for best practices, capacity development and South-South Cooperation. The Center will serve as a South-South Cooperation mechanism for catalyzing and facilitating learning and innovation; connecting national, regional and global policy makers and practitioners for hunger eradication purposes.



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### FOCUS COUNTRIES

The Regional Initiative started in 2014 with four countries (Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi and Niger) and was extended to four additional countries (Chad, Ghana, Kenya and Rwanda)

### Way forward in 2016/17

Through the Regional Initiative, FAO will accelerate the implementation of the strategy and roadmap of the Malabo Declaration at Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and participating countries levels. It will seek to strengthen the programming, mechanisms, capacity and delivery of actions needed to operationalize commitment to end hunger by 2025. Mapping exercises will identify gaps and determine the requisite interventions to enhance policy dialogue, mainstreaming food security and nutrition, coordination and capacity building for improved delivery.

# Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development in Africa



An inclusive transformation of the agriculture sector depends on capacity building and the engagement of the youth

Sub-Saharan Africa is generally characterized by low production and productivity in the agriculture sector and a large number of smallholders whose use of agricultural inputs is minimal. Hence, the tendency is to continue to expand the land area, through encroachment into forests and rangelands, in the hope of increasing production. However, the rangelands are being used by pastoralists that thus lose their grazing grounds. Additionally, low precipitation is a limiting factor for the majority of these smallholders and the majority are focused more on self-consumption than selling into commercial markets.

This situation is further challenged by the rapidly growing and urbanizing population, with the attendant increase in demand for food, which calls for closing the production gap. There is therefore the need for increased production and productivity in the crop, livestock, forestry, aquaculture and fishery sectors to meet the gaps in food supply in most countries in the region. Furthermore, even where the production is available, it is not well linked to food systems that are rapidly transforming in terms of the aggregation and processing of raw agricultural produce, and the marketing and regional trade of food products. This is due to diverse constraints such as inadequate infrastructure, technologies, business skills and enabling business environments. An inclusive and sustainable transformation of the agriculture sector depends on the capacity to generate employment for youth and to engage young men and women as the agro-entrepreneurs of Africa. Given this scenario, through this Regional Initiative, FAO takes a holistic approach to enhanced agricultural diversification, productivity and competitiveness, in a value chain context.

## Results in 2014-2015

- Supported development of value chains of livestock, crop and aquaculture, including reduced post-harvest loss and waste. For example in Cameroun, a draft national strategy for post-harvest loss reduction is under preparation.
- Supported land tenure arrangements with regard to (1) the implementation of the 'Loi du Foncier Rural de 1998' in Côte d'Ivoire which contributed to mobilizing other partners (World Bank and European Union Commission investing 30 million US dollars each) in supporting the implementation of the Act and (2) participatory approaches in land conflict resolution in communities in Eastern D R Congo.
- Supported the development of transboundary trade in agricultural products (for example between DR Congo, Angola and Republic of Congo).
- Supported development of management capacities of producer organizations. For example, in Chad good

practices for the production of Spirulina and its use in combating malnutrition were documented and communicated, and women producers were trained. In Cameroun, training was provided to 100 women on the techniques of cassava processing to improve the quality of the produce.

- Supported the preparation of a Technical Cooperation Project in Côte d'Ivoire for the sustainable intensification of agriculture production in inland wetlands using the 'Save and Grow' and 'the guidelines of the sustainable development of inland wetlands' approaches. The project is now under implementation for 2015-2016.
- Furthermore, FAO facilitated knowledge exchanges on small scale irrigation (Rwanda visiting Uganda), climate smart agriculture/conservation agriculture (Kenya, Uganda and Zambia visiting Zimbabwe), cassava value chain development and gender mainstreaming (Chad and DR Congo visiting Cameroun).

## Way forward in 2016-17

Based on experience and lessons learned in 2014-15, the Regional Initiative has been revamped to sharpen its focus and be more programmatic. It will focus on sustainable intensification of production and the associated measures needed to address post-production issues, including better handling, processing and distribution, improved food quality and safety, and facilitating access to markets. Cassava, maize



Need for increased production and productivity in the crops, livestock, and forestry, aquaculture and fisheries sectors to meet the gaps in food supply in most countries

and rice production systems will be the flagships and will take into consideration other systems such as pulses, millet and sorghum, aquaculture, agroforestry and livestock production, depending on the country priorities. As a cross-cutting principle, the Initiative will aim at creating decent job and entrepreneurship opportunities to young women and men in line with FAO's Action Plan on "Promoting youth employment and entrepreneurship in agriculture and agribusiness in sub-Saharan Africa".

## FOCUS COUNTRIES

The countries of focus for the years 2014-15 were Cameroun, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Kenya, Rwanda and Zambia, and for 2016-17, Mali and Mozambique have been added.



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Agricultural growth and comprehensive food and nutrition security cannot be attained without increasing the resilience of vulnerable livelihoods to disasters and crises

Populations in Africa are increasingly exposed to natural hazards (drought, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and disease epidemics), to human-made crises (socio-economic shocks, and conflicts) and to protracted crises (complex, prolonged emergencies that combine two or more aspects of the above-mentioned crises). These are threats not only to the livelihoods of vulnerable populations, but also to the achievement of the aspirations of the Malabo Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Agricultural growth and comprehensive food and nutrition security cannot be attained without increasing the resilience of vulnerable livelihoods to disasters and crises. In this context, the Regional Initiative on Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands has the overall aim to strengthen the resilience of livelihoods to shocks, threats and crises in Africa's drylands, while responding to crises when they occur.

## Results in 2014-2015

Results were achieved in the countries of focus for 2014-15 (Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan and Zimbabwe). Through the Regional Initiative FAO also supported countries in the development of resilience strategies and plans. Specific results include the following:

- Focus countries and sub-regions' capacities were strengthened to provide regular information and early warning against potential, known and emerging threats through national capacity development.
- In close cooperation with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS), FAO promoted the implementation of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and the Cadre harmonisé that provide decision makers with evidence on the severity and magnitude of food insecurity.
- FAO promoted a comprehensive resilience approach (Caisses de Résilience) integrating social protection, productive support and financial inclusion in a mutually supportive way to foster opportunities at community level (particularly in support of vulnerable women and their organization), and promoted its implementation in the Sahel; as well as facilitated knowledge exchange on Pastoral Field Schools and Caisse de Resilience between the Sahel and the countries in the Horn of Africa.

- Countries and regions affected by disasters and crises were supported to get prepared for, coordinate and manage timely, effective and gender-sensitive responses.

## Way forward in 2016-17

In 2016-17, in line with country priorities and within the framework of the Malabo Declaration, through the Regional initiative FAO will further support countries and Africa regional institutions to strengthen the resilience of livelihoods with a focus on vulnerability reduction and prevention around 4 main areas:

- Resilience policy and strategy development and implementation: FAO will provide support to the development of country risk profiles, resilience strategies and related investment plans.
- Vulnerability analysis and resilience measurement: FAO will continue to support vulnerability mapping and analysis through Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and Cadre Harmonisé, joint assessments, transboundary risk assessments, and the roll out of Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA).
- Vulnerability reduction at community and household level: FAO will continue to support the implementation of the "Caisses de Resilience" approach at community level and develop the link between social protection, nutrition and resilience.



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Support vulnerability mapping and analysis through Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

- Preparedness, coordination and response to crises: FAO will further improve countries' capacities to prepare for, coordinate and manage effective responses to disasters and crises affecting the livelihoods, food security and nutrition of vulnerable populations.

Finally, in partnership with AUC, RECs and subregional organizations, FAO will support and facilitate the exchange of resilience good practices and knowledge across countries and the region.

## FOCUS COUNTRIES

The countries of focus moving ahead are Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.