



# Nepal and FAO

## *Building food and nutrition security through sustainable agricultural development*

Nepal and FAO have enjoyed close cooperation since the country joined FAO in 1951. During more than 60 years of partnership, FAO has implemented over 200 projects, ranging from policy advice and capacity development to technical support and agricultural emergency assistance, including transboundary animal disease control. As Nepal continues to reform following years of conflict, current cooperation efforts are focused on innovative approaches to agricultural and rural development.

### Enhancing capacity for emergency response

In response to the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) emergency in the Indo-Gangetic Plains, in 2007 FAO opened a Subregional Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases in Kathmandu, covering countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Three years later, a Regional Support Unit (RSU) was established for the prevention, control and eradication of highly pathogenic and emerging diseases. The unit aims to strengthen the capacity of SAARC countries for delivering quality veterinary and public health services.

At the same time, as part of its regional and global initiatives, FAO is continuing to strengthen national stakeholders' capacities for surveillance of the new H7N9 strain. Field veterinary staff are being trained and prepared to provide rapid and appropriate responses to emergencies and outbreaks.

*Project: Improvement of Regional Capacities for the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases, including HPAI in ASEAN and SAARC countries. Funded by the European Union.*

### Matching FAO's expertise to Nepal's development priorities

FAO assistance in Nepal is shaped by the 2013-2017 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF), which identifies four priority areas for technical cooperation:

- **Food and nutrition security and safety**, with a view to improving agricultural productivity through enhanced national and local capacities
- **Institutional and policy support**, strengthening analytical and technical capacities from policy and programme formulation to implementation and monitoring
- **Market orientation and competitiveness**, promoting market-oriented production and value addition through enhanced technical and institutional capacities
- **Natural resource conservation and use, including adaptation to climate change**, with a focus on improved land registration and management practices for sustainable production in a conflict-free environment

Jointly developed with the Government and other partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies, including the **National Agriculture Sector Development Priority (2010)**, and the **Nepal Agriculture and Food Security Country Investment Plan (2010)**.

The CPF supports FAO's Strategic Framework as well as its regional priorities, and it is fully aligned with the UN Development Assistance Framework for Nepal. As the country is undergoing prolonged social, political and economic transformation, flexibility has been assured for the adjustment of CPF priorities as necessary, especially in view of the adoption of the new **Agriculture Development Strategy**.

#### CONTACTS

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## Piloting the Zero Hunger Challenge

FAO is providing the Government with technical assistance for the development of a National Action Plan to meet the country's commitments to the Zero Hunger Challenge.

Nepal is one of five pilot countries worldwide to have committed to the Zero Hunger Challenge. The initiative is aimed at achieving concerted action to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in a sustainable manner by 2025.

The Government launched the initiative in December 2014, making Nepal the first SAARC country to take on the Zero Hunger Challenge.

## Increasing productivity and competitiveness to achieve food security

Agriculture is the largest single contributor (around 34 percent) to Nepal's GDP, so the sector is an important source of livelihood and a priority sector for achieving growth and food nutrition and security. However, efforts to transform agriculture from a predominantly subsistence-level activity into a competitive commercial sector face a variety of challenges such as continuing political and governance issues, poor infrastructure, lack of access to credit, low private sector participation, unfavourable climatic events and limited human resource capacity – compounded by outward migration of working-aged males.

Action is being taken on several fronts with a view to boosting agricultural productivity and competitiveness through sustainable and profitable investments. FAO, together with partners, has supported the Government's formulation of a new Agriculture Development

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

José Graziano da Silva  
FAO Director-General

Strategy (ADS) and is also providing technical assistance to one of the largest projects implemented within the framework of the the country's Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme. This project is targeting communities in 19 food-insecure districts, with the aim of increasing crop and livestock productivity and improving the population's nutritional status. Activities include the promotion of a diversified diet and improved feeding and caring practices for pregnant and nursing women and young children. The beneficiaries of the project are crop farmers (estimated direct beneficiaries 50 000), livestock farmers (32 500), women engaged in home garden production (35 000), and households with pregnant and nursing women (45 000).

Critical inputs have been imported, such as livestock genetic material (live goats as well as semen), and catalytic training has been carried out. For example, a Master training of Trainers (MTot) course for officers and technicians has been completed, as has a Training of Farmer Facilitators (ToF) course for crop and livestock production. Likewise, technical assistance has been provided for the preparation

of a consolidated monitoring and evaluation framework, including a strategy document and data collection format for a project management information system (PMIS).

## Scaling up leasehold forestry

FAO recently concluded four years of technical support to help poor rural communities generate revenue and improve the quality of forest areas. The intervention focused on improving the effectiveness of Nepal's Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Development Programme (LFLDP) by developing institutional and technical capacities at the community, district and central level as well as scaling up leasehold forestry in the country.

Covering more than 30 districts, the Programme comprised the following themes: improving livelihoods through increased incomes; women's empowerment; goat and fodder production; and rehabilitation of degraded forestlands. It was successful in improving the quality of leasehold forests as well as livelihoods. Lessons learned from the LFLDP have also influenced other projects and the programme has been designated a national priority.

A Programme participant, the Hupsekot Leasehold Forest Intergroup, was awarded the Mountain Development Award (for 2011) by the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation for its contribution to hill conservation and livelihood improvements.

*Project: Technical Assistance for Leasehold Forest and Livestock Development Programme in Nepal. Funded by the Government of Finland.*



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