



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Key to Achieving the 2030 Agenda
for Sustainable Development
in Europe and Central Asia

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Cover photo: THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC – A woman works in fish production in the village of Tuyp, 350 km from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, as part of the project "Towards Sustainable Aquaculture and Fisheries Development in the Kyrgyz Republic." ©FAO/Vyacheslav Oseledko





**THE REPUBLIC
OF ARMENIA**

Mixed dried fruit is on display
at a farmers' market in Yerevan.
©FAO/Biayna Mahari

“The best way to ensure no one is left behind in 2030 is by addressing root causes. Investments, policies and partnerships aimed at strengthening the resilience and growth potential of poor rural people can achieve great things – zero hunger, nourishing food and collective prosperity, all while nurturing the planet.”

FAO Director-General
José Graziano da Silva

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals offer a vision of a fairer, more prosperous, peaceful and sustainable world in which no one is left behind.

On 25 September 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, underpinned by 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 targets and 232 indicators to guide the actions of governments, international agencies, civil society and other institutions to achieve sustainable development by 2030.

The 2030 Agenda sets forth a transformational and ambitious plan to guide the global approach to sustainable development through the united efforts of all countries and all stakeholders, with no one left behind. The 17 SDGs are universal, integrated and indivisible, capturing all the three dimensions of sustainable development: social

There are more people to feed with less water, farmland and biodiversity. We need to transform our current input-heavy food systems to make them more sustainable – including reducing food waste and loss – through better management and improved techniques in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry. Agriculture also has a major role to play in combating desertification and other negative impacts of climate change.

THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Farmers in Yangiurgan rayon, Uzbekistan, have been able to care for their apple orchards thanks to modern drip irrigation technologies received with support of an FAO project to promote water-saving technologies.
©FAO/Rustam Shagaev



development, sustained and inclusive economic growth, and environmental protection.

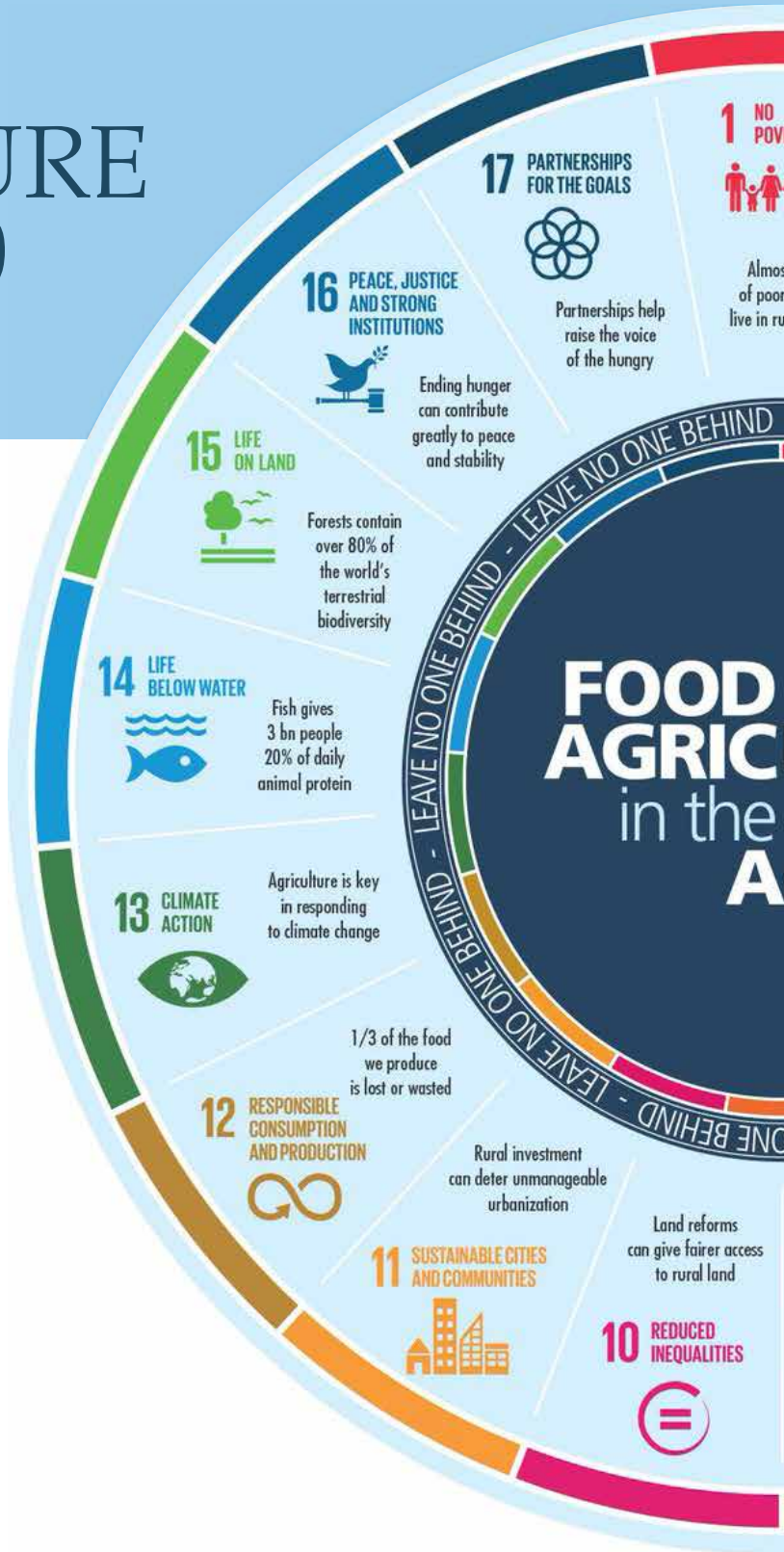
The 2030 Agenda aims to tackle the complex challenges facing the planet today – ending poverty, hunger and malnutrition and responding to climate change. In this context, sustainable food and agriculture are critically

important for the achievement of the SDGs, because they can help tackle the root causes of hunger and poverty, enable an inclusive society that leaves no one behind – particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged women and men in rural communities – and promote the sustainable management of natural resources.

The SDGs offer the right framework to tackle the economic, social and environmental challenges related to food and agricultural systems in Europe and Central Asia.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN THE 2030 AGENDA

In food – the way it is grown, produced, consumed, traded, transported, stored and marketed – lies the fundamental connection between people and the planet, and the path to inclusive and sustainable economic growth.



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

A vast and diverse region comprising more than 50 countries spread across 13 time zones, the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region has made major progress in reducing hunger in recent decades.

However, 14.3 million adults and more than 4 million children in the ECA region still suffer from severe food insecurity. All forms of malnutrition – such as micronutrient deficiencies and overnutrition – are still prevalent in both adults and children across the region.

It is estimated that 62 percent of the poor in the ECA region live in rural areas. With an average of 45.4 percent of the population living in rural areas, poverty remains endemic in some European and Central Asian countries.

Smallholders and family farms account for the lion's share of the agriculture production in the region and play a pivotal role in ensuring sustainable development. Rural populations, particularly women and youth, face a number of

challenges in terms of opportunities for decent rural employment, social protection systems, labour migration, and access to services, knowledge, markets, inputs and financial resources. Regarding the issue of migration, it is important to work with “left behind” family members to redirect remittances and to consider the vulnerability both of those who have migrated (especially if irregularly) and those left behind.

Moreover, fragmented land ownership structures represent one of the structural problems impeding the ability of the region's agricultural sector to reach its full potential, hampering agricultural productivity and competitiveness.

Extreme weather events and natural hazards are becoming more frequent and violent. Global food systems generate a consistent share of greenhouse gas emissions. Land degradation is a growing threat to agricultural productivity and ecosystems in the region. The changing climate can also impact the safety of food through fluctuations in temperature and precipitation patterns, increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, ocean warming and acidification and changes in contaminants' transport pathways, among other issues. Climate change also plays a role in the emergence of hazards,

THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Women grow vegetables in their gardens in the village of Bayzak in Kyrgyzstan.
©FAO/Vyacheslav Oseledko





including changes in microbial agents due to fluctuations in air and water temperature and changes in water availability and quality, with resultant impacts on disease patterns. Increases in air temperatures already are affecting the region, with an average of 0.5 °C in the south of the region and 1.6 °C in the north.

Improvements in food security, rural livelihoods and economic, social and environmental sustainability in the region will not be possible without addressing gender equality and the empowerment of rural women. This includes:

- ▶ removing constraints to equitable access to and control over resources and inputs;
- ▶ supporting initiatives that create decent jobs and economic opportunities;
- ▶ supporting professional education/training and social protection services; and
- ▶ supporting women's empowerment to fully develop their potential as agents of development and raise their voices.

Only when both women's and men's concerns, needs and experiences are fully considered for policymaking, can they benefit equally from any legislation, policies or programmes so that no one is left behind.

FAO'S SUPPORT ON SDGS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

A specialized agency of the United Nations, FAO has extensive experience in supporting sustainable development in the context of food and agriculture, providing norms, standards and data for the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

FAO is widely recognized for its technical capacity, global reach, monitoring expertise and experience in building partnerships and shaping policy in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In the Europe and Central Asia region, FAO's technical support is organized around three Regional Initiatives, which have been endorsed by FAO Member States to ensure coherent and integrated support to the countries in terms of SDG implementation.

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

1. Empowering smallholders and family farms for improved rural livelihood and poverty reduction, mainly contributing to:



2. Improving agrifood trade and market integration, mainly contributing to:



3. Ensuring sustainable natural resource management, including through climate change mitigation and adaptation, mainly contributing to:



THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Workers harvest farmed fish in the Issyk-Kul region of Kyrgyzstan. Support to fishery and aquaculture management has provided training, fish fry, manuals, legal assistance and scholarships for advanced fisheries studies. ©FAO/Sergey Kozmin



Food and nutrition security, gender mainstreaming, governance and climate change are addressed as cross-cutting issues in the programme and policy work carried out by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia.

With expertise in crops, livestock, market and trade, food safety, nutrition, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, climate change, food waste, rural development and more, FAO is a desirable partner for countries as they pursue their national and regional priorities and work to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. FAO currently operates approximately 130 projects in the Europe and Central Asia region.

In line with the UN Sustainable Development Group's Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) approach, the FAO Regional Office is actively engaged with the countries and regional institutions in Europe and Central Asia to strengthen technical capacities on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In particular, FAO is facilitating a number of multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral dialogues, at regional and national levels, on the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs related to food and agriculture. This contributes to facilitating the exchange of country experiences on SDGs, enhancing the awareness and capacities of the ministries of agriculture, statistics agencies and other relevant stakeholders in SDG implementation and monitoring, and supporting inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral dialogues on SDG implementation among a wide range of stakeholders, including non-state actors.

FAO also is assisting countries in the region in the identification, implementation and monitoring of the SDG national targets and indicators in the current SDG nationalization processes,

providing advice on the alignment of the sectoral policy framework with the SDGs, offering methodological support on the 21 SDG indicators under FAO custodianship, and advising on critical actions to be undertaken for the implementation and monitoring of relevant SDGs and the core principle of leaving no one behind.

Furthermore, FAO contributes to the monitoring and analysis of the progress towards SDG 2 targets through its flagship report "Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia," focusing on SDG target 2.1 (end hunger and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food) and target 2.2 (end all forms of malnutrition) and related policy developments at national and regional levels.

LIST OF SDG INDICATORS UNDER FAO CUSTODIANSHIP

	INDICATOR	CUSTODIAN and PARTNERS	TIER*
2.1.1	Prevalence of undernourishment	FAO	I
2.1.2	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	FAO	II
2.3.1	Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size	FAO	II
2.3.2	Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status	FAO, World Bank	II
2.4.1	Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	FAO, UNEP	II
2.5.1	Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in medium- or long-term conservation facilities	FAO, UNEP	I
2.5.2	Proportion of local breeds, classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or unknown level of risk of extinction	FAO, UNEP	I
2.a.1	The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures	FAO	I
2.c.1	Indicator of food price anomalies	FAO	II
5.a.1	(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure	FAO, UN Women, UNSD, UNEP, World Bank, UN Habitat	II
5.a.2	Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control	FAO, World Bank, UN-Women	II
6.4.1	Change in water use efficiency over time	FAO, UNEP, IUCN, UNSD, OECD, Eurostat	II
6.4.2	Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	FAO, UNEP, IUCN, UNSD, OECD, Eurostat	I
12.3.1	(a) Food loss index	FAO	II
14.4.1	Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	FAO	I
14.6.1	Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	FAO	II
14.7.1	Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing states, least developed countries and all countries	FAO, UNEP-WCMC	III
14.b.1	Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework that recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries	FAO	II
15.1.1	Forest area as a percentage of total land area	FAO, UNEP	I
15.2.1	Progress towards sustainable forest management	FAO, UNEP	I
15.4.2	Mountain Green Cover Index	FAO, UNEP	I

* Tier I - for which an established methodology exists and data are already widely available;

Tier II - for which a methodology has been established but for which data are not easily available;

Tier III - for which an internationally agreed-upon methodology has not yet been developed and data are largely not available. Tier classification updated 23 November 2018.

KEY MESSAGES

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ARE KEY TO ACHIEVING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable food and agriculture are critically important for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by tackling the root causes of malnutrition and poverty, enabling an inclusive society that leaves no one behind – particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged populations in rural communities – and promoting the sustainable management of natural resources. The SDGs offer the right framework to tackle the economic, social and environmental challenges related to food and agricultural systems in Europe and Central Asia.

SDGS ARE UNIVERSAL GOALS: NEW WAYS OF WORKING TOGETHER ARE REQUIRED

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets universal goals and targets that involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike. They demand action by everyone and call for new ways of working together. Partnership, solidarity and a willingness to come together across geographies, sectors, professions and disciplines are the key enablers. Sustainable development is a cross-sectoral and integrated issue that can only be achieved through a very strong cooperation and global partnerships among multiple actors – governments, United Nations agencies, cooperatives, civil society, the private sector and other key actors – and across a broad range of areas.

FAO IS SUPPORTING COUNTRIES IN ACHIEVING THE 2030 AGENDA

A United Nations specialized agency, FAO has extensive experience in supporting sustainable development in the context of food and agriculture, providing norms, standards and data for the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the SDGs. FAO is widely recognized for its technical capacity, global reach, monitoring expertise and experience in building partnerships and shaping policy as a neutral convener in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

EFFECTIVE SDG MONITORING IS A KEY REQUIREMENT TO ACHIEVING PROGRESS

FAO has deep experience and strong comparative advantages in supporting the generation of data and statistics for evidence-based policymaking. FAO is a custodian UN agency for 21 of the 232 SDG indicators identified by the UN Statistical Commission – across SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (water and sanitation), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 14 (life below water) and SDG 15 (life on land) – and is a contributing agency for four more. FAO's support in strengthening statistical capacities on SDG indicators can help countries meet the new monitoring challenges. FAO statistics can be used by governments to formulate and supervise policy and by farmers in their forward planning and economic decision-making. FAO's annual flagship publication "Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition" monitors progress towards the targets of ending both hunger (SDG target 2.1) and all forms of malnutrition (SDG target 2.2) in Europe and Central Asia and provides an analysis of the underlying causes and drivers of observed trends.

SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

BALKANS

THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

Unveiling opportunities for rural women

SDGs **1 2 5 8**

Recognizing gender equality as key to eliminating poverty and hunger, FAO consistently has been leading efforts in researching and promoting new opportunities for rural women. Albania today is a middle-income country, but economic progress has not been equally distributed. Long-term unemployment persists at a rate of 10 to 11 percent of the workforce, and it is higher in rural areas and highest of all among rural women.

Only when issues are visible can the value chain assessment be strategically addressed. For this, FAO has been conducting a series of country gender assessments in countries of the region, including Albania. Conclusions and recommendations from the “Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in Albania. Country Gender Assessment Series” have been validated by the Ministry of Agriculture of Albania.

As a result of the gender assessment, FAO implemented a project in Albania to support rural women’s economic empowerment through income diversification. In line with the national priorities, the project’s long-term objectives were to close the “gender gap” in rural areas, improve the livelihoods of rural populations, reduce poverty, and develop rural areas in sustainable ways, contributing, among others, to SDG targets 1.2 (reduce the proportion of men, women and children living in poverty), 1.4 (ensure equal rights to economic resources), 2.3 (double agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers), 5.a (undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources), and 8.5 (achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all).

A study commissioned by FAO under this project was aimed at identifying which value chains in Albania had the most potential for women’s economic empowerment and rural economic development, so that they could be strategically prioritized by the Ministry of Agriculture of Albania, FAO and other development partners. The value chains of aromatic plants, beekeeping and gourmet and traditional food were the ones

SELECTED CASE STUDIES ON SDG IMPLEMENTATION

FAO, with its expertise and resources, is well-positioned to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The interconnectedness of the SDGs means that all actors supporting countries in implementing and monitoring the goals must partner and share knowledge.

THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

A woman works at the farm and traditional restaurant Mrizi / Zanave in the village of Blinisht in Lezhe, Albania.
©FAO/Gent Shkullaku



THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

An Albanian woman wearing traditional dress from the Zadrima region takes care of her cows in the village of Blinisht in Lezhe, Albania.
©FAO/Gent Shkullaku



that were selected as the best for women's economic empowerment. The rationale behind the study was that increased participation of women in value-added productive activities requires an understanding of all the barriers that limit their participation along the value chains. Among others, the study recommends focusing on marketing and distribution activities in the beekeeping sector as possible income diversification opportunities for women; the potential for products such as sage, essential oils and wild tea to be exported to foreign markets; and the growing demand for traditional and gourmet food – which, however, still lacks appropriate packaging and cost-effective production.

The data collected and the rigorous analysis of the value chains and markets will be useful to policymakers and development agencies in supporting women's economic empowerment, providing a solid basis for a

strategic, informed and results-oriented design of women's empowerment policies and programmes.

THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Coming to grips with climate change's impact on agriculture
SDGs **1** **2** **13**

In a landlocked country, where agriculture has a strong share in the economy and makes up almost 20 percent of total employment, advance information on precipitation and other weather factors is essential to ensuring that farmers have a productive season. In fact, agricultural production is closely linked to weather conditions, which in turn make it sensitive to climate change impacts. Rising temperatures, changes in rainfall quantity and schedule, and an increased frequency of extreme weather events are becoming

key challenges for small-scale farmers, who are responsible for about 87 percent of the country's total agricultural production value. Adaptation to climate change has become paramount, and helping farmers transition to systems that are more resilient to climate change is viewed as a core national priority. Timely weather information is needed to optimize farmers' interventions and maintain their agricultural productions.

The installation of three hydrometeorological stations in Strumica, Gradsko and Kochani in 2017 was a significant step in an FAO project aimed at making Macedonian agriculture less vulnerable to climate change. These weather stations will enable the analysis of climatic trends and improve forecasts and agrometeorological information for farmers, strengthening the capacities of farmers to adapt to climate change.

SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

The project implemented capacity development programs for farmers, agricultural organizations and National Extension Agency to address a number of issues related to climate change preparedness and to encourage relevant transitions to adapted and resilient production systems. Topics included how to introduce climate change adaption measures for crops and livestock, how to identify and control major climate-related pests and diseases, and how to use agrometeorological information to cope more efficiently with climate variability and the increasing incidence of extreme meteorological events such as droughts, floods and frosts.

Significant assistance was provided for secondary agricultural schools for the development of teaching materials and curricula on climate change that could be added to the existing curricula, as well as for the implementation of specific trainings for teachers for the inclusion of climate change in their teaching programmes.

The project contributes directly to SDG targets 1.5 (build the resilience of the poor and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events), 2.4 (ensure sustainable

food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change) and SDG 13 (combat climate change).

It is worth mentioning that FAO also supports the establishment of National Agro-Ecological Zoning (NAEZ), a Land Resources Information Management System (LRIMS), and Scenario Development in North Macedonia. This could enable progress in techniques, policy and investment conditions to achieve sustainable agricultural development in the context of climate change and market integration.

MONTENEGRO

Preventing illegal fishing practices SDG 14

Worldwide, rogue fishing accounts for around one-sixth of the total catch per year, which consists roughly of 26 million tonnes of fish – worth about USD 23 billion – and represents a huge threat to the sustainability of fishing in the world's seas and oceans.

The FAO-brokered Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing entered into force in June 2016. Part of a global framework to safeguard global marine natural resources and make fishing practices more environmentally sustainable, the agreement aims to prevent fishing vessels from landing illegal catches. It commits signatories to strengthen the cooperation among fishers, port authorities, coast guards and navies for inspection and control procedures at ports and on fishing vessels. It sets up a number of permission and reporting requirements that make it harder for illegal operators to offload and sell their fish.

Montenegro joined the agreement in June 2017 and is fully committed to preventing illegal fishing practices. FAO has been extensively



THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Tomatoes and zucchini are on display at a farmers' market in Yerevan.
©FAO/Biayna Mahari

supporting Montenegro in the fisheries sector, particularly by assisting the country in complying with international standards for animal aquatic health and by promoting scientific cooperation for responsible fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. Among the Balkan Countries, Albania is also a Party to the Agreement.

Joining the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing represents a major contribution to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14, particularly target 14.4, which calls for an end to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by 2020 and which is monitored by an indicator under FAO custodianship.

CAUCASUS

THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Strengthening capacities for pesticide quality control

SDGs **2** **3** **6** **12**

Sustainable and environmentally sound agricultural inputs, with guidance and technical assistance to ensure their proper implementation, play a key role in the production of safe food and feed. After the collapse of the centrally planned economy and the liberalization of the markets, new pesticide inputs were imported for use in Armenia from a wide range of countries, often without proper control on quality and authenticity. While the use of pesticides in pest, disease and weed control is important to ensure quality agricultural yields, it could also have adverse effects on human and animal health as well as

on the environment. Ensuring the quality control of imported pesticides and an efficient pesticide residue surveillance monitoring system for the food produced is, therefore, essential. However, Armenia lacked the necessary technical capacities and equipment.

Through a Greece-funded project of USD 2 million titled "Support for pesticide quality control and residue monitoring in Armenia," FAO supported Armenia in establishing the first pesticide quality control laboratory, inaugurated in Yerevan in 2015, fully equipped to carry out pesticide quality control according to international standards. The new laboratory enables Armenia to improve the quality of its agricultural products and reduce the negative effects of pesticides on humans, animals and the environment, as the volume and variety of

SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

pesticides imported into Armenia is increasing every year. The laboratory staff are trained to analyse pesticide products, supporting the government in reducing the incidence of obsolete, low-quality, fraudulent or unauthorized pesticides on the Armenian market. The laboratory is unique in its kind and it is the only one in the whole Caucasus region.

The project contributes significantly to the protection of public health and the reduction of risks associated with the use of pesticides – specifically to SDG targets 3.9 (reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals), 6.3 (improve water quality by minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials), 12.4 (achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and reduce their release to air, water and soil) – and to the sustainable development of the agricultural sector through less hazardous agricultural inputs, leading to improved agricultural practices, safer food and a cleaner environment, as addressed by SDG target 2.1 (end hunger and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food).

THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Working on national land consolidation

SDGs **1 2 5 8 15**

Economic diversification and expansion of economic development to rural areas is a key priority for Azerbaijan, as the country is keen to reduce its economic dependence on oil. As the third-largest sector in Azerbaijan’s economy, following oil and construction, agriculture has a potentially key role to play in economic diversification, considering the high share of employment rate (36 percent in 2015) as well as the multiple benefits that a focus on agriculture would bring, including poverty reduction. However, one of the major impediments to be tackled is excessive land fragmentation and small farm sizes. In Azerbaijan, smallholders and family farms account for about 869 000 ha, with an average property size of 1.6 ha. These are usually divided into four or five land parcels, which prevents the full development of the agricultural sector and hampers its productivity and competitiveness.

In 2016, FAO launched a project to support Azerbaijan in drafting a national strategy for land consolidation and to develop national knowledge and capacities for carrying out modern land consolidation projects. The project includes the implementation of voluntary land consolidation pilot projects in selected communities, which serves as a contribution to the capacity development component of the project.

Within the framework of the FAO/Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT), FAO is bringing into the country its extended experience in land consolidation and land rights, integrating the cross-cutting issues of gender equality, governance and environmental protection. Given the existing gender-based inequalities in access to decision-making, and because women’s land rights may not be well protected in informal transactions, a proactive approach is essential to ensure that women and men fully enjoy their rights and have informed consent during the land consolidation

process. Transparent, inclusive and gender-responsive processes consist, for instance, of adapting community workshops to the content and logistical needs of women and men, including internally displaced persons, landless persons and vulnerable groups; of screening the land consolidation process, policies and laws so they are gender responsive and socially inclusive throughout; and of ensuring that the community development plans linked to the land consolidation include the needs and realities of both women and men.

Government staff have gained hands-on experience by working with FAO experts to implement land consolidation in the selected pilot area of the country. Participatory community workshops are also a significant part of the project, as local residents have participated in community development planning supporting the elaboration of the land parcel exchanges and purchases in the pilot projects.

The project contributes greatly to a number of SDGs, including SDG targets 1.2 (reduce the proportion of men,

women and children living in poverty), 1.4 (ensure equal rights to economic resources), 2.3 (double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale producers), 5.a (undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources), 8.5 (achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all), and 15.1 (ensure the sustainable use of ecosystems).

GEORGIA

Promoting ecotourism in the scenic Tsalka region

SDGs **1** **8** **12**

Rural development is increasingly crucial in Georgia to diversify rural income, promote economic diversification and reduce rural poverty, particularly in mountainous and less developed areas. Over the last decade, the socio-economic status of Georgia's mountainous regions has worsened, mainly due to high unemployment rates, low income, increased migration, underdevelopment of services and cultural sectors, environmental pollution and excess exploitation of the soil. Investing in ecotourism is one

of the solutions that Georgia chose to overcome these challenges.

Through a project funded by Austria, FAO supported Georgia's southern Tsalka region in becoming ready to host agritourists and ecotourists drawn by the area's unique natural beauty and cultural monuments. The areas for support were identified through a participatory local initiative in 2016, which involved representatives from the local population and from private and non-governmental organizations. After an analysis of the needs of local women and men, Tsalka has been identified as a region with a high potential for ecotourism, considering its beautiful natural landscapes and hospitable farmers.

Three touristic routes were identified, one for hiking, one for bicycle touring, and one for automobile touring. The routes, with GPS coordinates, were laid out to include most of the important cultural and environmental points of interest in Tsalka, such as the famous Dashbashi canyon, 22 cultural heritage sites (including churches dating

SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

back as early as the eleventh century), and guest houses and farms offering products for tourists.

The project also supported the improvement of the tourism infrastructure and provided training to potential tourism service providers. The focus, thus, is on income diversification in rural areas, poverty reduction, and empowerment of rural population, women and men, contributing to a number of SDG targets, including 1.2 (reduce poverty), 8.9 (promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products), 12.b (monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products), and to making sure that no one is left behind.

CENTRAL ASIA

THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

Supporting the development of organic farming

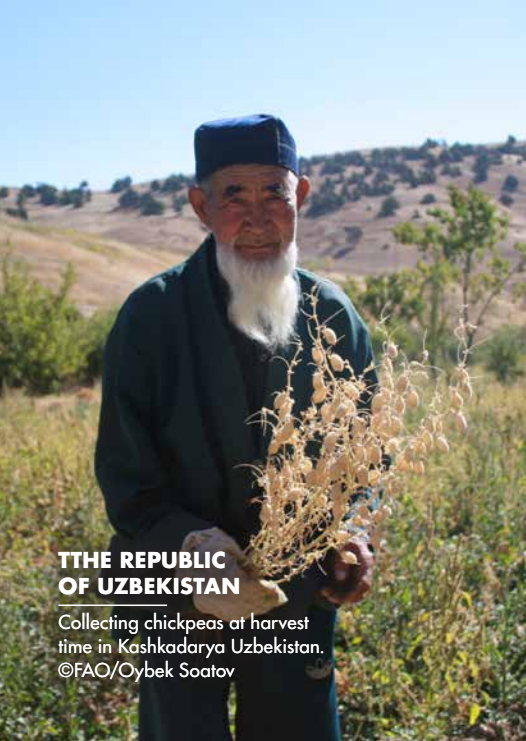
SDGs 

Despite the large agricultural potential of Kazakhstan, agricultural productivity varies widely across the regions due to poor rainfall, scarcity of arable land, land fragmentation, and the degradation of natural resources in terms of soil erosion, salinity, loss of soil fertility and organic matter, overgrazing, and desertification. The Government of Kazakhstan considered organic agriculture as a good solution to boost the agricultural sector while preserving the sustainable use of natural resources and environmental protection, as well as ensuring good nutrition and food security.

The demand for organic agriculture is increasing all over the world. Because organic agriculture requires less machinery and fewer herbicides and pesticides, it can also be more accessible for women as well as poor and vulnerable groups – if they have access to the knowledge required for this type of agriculture. However, despite rapid increases in organic agriculture in the European Union and other countries,

the development of this sector in Kazakhstan has remained slow, mainly due to a lack of national legislation and a system for certification. Also, there is a strong need to build knowledge on organic farming practices and on the development of marketing opportunities.

In 2015, FAO launched a two-year project, titled “Supporting the development of organic farming and institutional capacity building in Kazakhstan,” to assist Kazakhstan in pursuing an organic agricultural production strategy and in improving the country’s capacity to fulfil its potential. The project supported Kazakhstan in strengthening the organic sector in terms of production capacity, legislation, organizational infrastructure, certification, labelling and strategic planning. The longer-term objective is to supply organic produce from Kazakhstan to both domestic and foreign markets, including European Union countries and China. Non-governmental organizations and research institutions interested in



THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Collecting chickpeas at harvest time in Kashkadarya Uzbekistan. ©FAO/Oybek Soatov



THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

People sell fish along the side of a road in Balykchi, Kyrgyzstan. ©FAO/Vyacheslav Oseledko

developing the organic sector were also involved in the project activities.

The project contributes to SDG targets 2.4 (ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices), 3.9 (reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals) and 15.1 (ensure the sustainable use of ecosystems).

Moreover, in the long run, organic agriculture will have an impact on the market and value chain structures and, as a result, on the socio-economic structures of rural areas, with long-term impacts on reduced poverty and inequalities – as promoted in SDG 1 (ending poverty) and in SDG 10 (reducing inequality) – if implemented in an inclusive manner.

THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Building fish hatchery and aquafeed units to support aquaculture

SDGs **2 4 5 8**

Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the annual aquaculture production in Kyrgyzstan has significantly decreased, from 1 500 tonnes per annum during the Soviet period to 71 tonnes per annum in 2006. The reduction in production is mainly a result of the cessation of state budget support to the sector. Considering the low levels of fish consumption in Kyrgyzstan – despite the abundant water resources comprising more than 1 900 lakes – one of the government’s priorities is to support the excellent potential for aquaculture and fisheries development in the country.

Through a USD 2.5-million project funded by Finland, FAO has been supporting the establishment of small-scale fish hatchery and aquafeed production facilities in Kyrgyzstan, providing technical expertise, equipment and construction materials. The first unit was opened in the Issyk-Kul province in 2016, and more have followed in other provinces. FAO has also contributed to the creation of ten fish associations, in Issyk-Kul, Jalal-Abad, Chui and Naryn provinces. The project represents the first instance of support for aquaculture infrastructure in the country since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

The project also included education and capacity development components to ensure the sustainability of the activities implemented:

SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

The development of a fisheries course curriculum at the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University was supported, along with high-quality technical training for fish farmers and staff at the Department of Pastures, Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Melioration, and scientific institutes. All these efforts encouraged and supported the establishment of private fish farms.

The project had a strong emphasis on gender mainstreaming. In fact, women fish farmers created several groups within the project to serve their economic and social empowerment, and to improve their access to economic resources.

The project contributes to SDG targets 2.3 (double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers), 4.4 (increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship), 5.a (undertake reforms to give women equal rights to

economic resources), and 8.5 (achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men).

THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

Greenhouses in schools to support food security and nutrition

SDGs **2** **4**

Despite its low level of productivity in the country, agriculture is the main source of income for rural households in Tajikistan and has a great potential to contribute significantly to poverty reduction, considering that about 70 percent of the country's population lives in rural areas. One of the key priorities of the Government of Tajikistan, as presented in the "Agrarian Reform Programme of the Republic of Tajikistan 2012–2020," is to strengthen the agricultural sector and to enhance national food and nutrition security and safety.

In 2016, FAO launched a Russian-funded project titled "Developing capacity for strengthening food security and nutrition in selected countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia," with the aim of strengthening the linkages among social protection, nutrition and agriculture. One of the results of

the project was the establishment of a number of greenhouses with drip irrigation systems in 20 schools in the Khatlon region, specifically in Vakhsh and Dusti districts and in the city of Nurek. Technical support was provided by the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute.

Vegetables produced in the greenhouses are used in the preparation of school meals for the children, to improve dietary diversity and nutritional value; the surplus is sold in the local market, and the income is used to further improve school feeding. The greenhouses also constitute a way to teach children the basics of agricultural production.

This project activity addresses the missing linkage between the National School Feeding Programme and the local agricultural activities, aiming at promoting healthy diets among school children and building capacities in the fields of nutrition and sustainable agriculture. The project also supports the production of an evidence base on food security, nutrition and agricultural practices to inform key national policy processes. It contributes to SDG targets 2.1 (end hunger and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient

food), 2.2 (end all forms of malnutrition), and 4.7 (ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development).

THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Fostering sustainable forest management

SDGs **2** **15** **17**

The degradation of natural resources due to extensive grazing, illegal logging and deforestation is a key issue in Uzbekistan. Nonetheless, the forestry sector is often overlooked in the policymaking processes, as the country does not have the capacity to collect data to monitor the status of the forests or to assess the related socio-economic aspects.

Through a joint regional project with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), funded by the United Nations Development Account (UNDA), FAO is currently supporting Uzbekistan by providing knowledge, capacity development and advisory services for the implementation of sustainable forest management at the national level, looking at the three dimensions of sustainability (social inclusion, economic growth



THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Women work in a medicinal herbs packing unit in the village of Chodak in Uzbekistan, equipped through an FAO project to support the country's non-wood forest products sector.
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and environmental protection). In particular, the project supports the country in the development of national criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and in the setting of the threshold values for monitoring, in line with the FAO/Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT).

National forest monitoring systems are essential to provide evidence-based information on forest use and management – which are, ultimately, key for forest policy developments. The project pays particular attention to gender aspects of the country's forestry by conducting a gender assessment of the forestry sector in Uzbekistan, which analyses women's roles in activities related to bee-keeping, wood fuel

collection, and the production of non-wood forest products, such as medicinal plants, and implements its recommendations.

A functional forest monitoring and reporting system is not only beneficial for national forest policies but also for enabling the country to progress on the SDGs. The project contributes to the majority of targets under SDG 15 (life on land) as well as to SDG targets 2.3 (double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale producers) and 17.18 (enhance capacity-building support to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data).

The regional project covers also other four countries: Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

EASTERN EUROPE

THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Supporting the Ministry of Agriculture in SDG implementation and monitoring

SDGs **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10**
11 12 13 14 15 16 17

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the SDG global indicator framework, the challenge of integrating the Agenda at the national and sub-national level began. This includes a number of steps that countries are undertaking worldwide, such as: raising awareness on the SDGs, establishing national SDG multi-stakeholder bodies, reviewing national strategic plans for alignment with the 2030 Agenda and identifying the SDG national targets and indicators, creating horizontal and vertical policy coherence, determining the means of implementation, and ensuring a timely monitoring and reporting system.

In the Republic of Moldova, a National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development – chaired by the Prime Minister and composed of all ministers and representatives of the private

sector and academia, with United Nations and civil society representatives as observers – was established in 2016 to coordinate and monitor the work on SDG implementation and ensure horizontal cooperation. Under the leadership of the Government, the process of taking up the 2030 Agenda at the country level has been supported by the United Nations Country Team in providing analytical support throughout the process.

FAO supports the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MoARDE) in the SDG nationalization process, as the responsible institution for the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs related to sustainable food and agriculture, including for setting the national targets, aligning the sectoral policy framework, and monitoring the related indicators.

The results already achieved through FAO's support include the formulation of a two-year action plan for MoARDE with key actions to be undertaken for the nationalization, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs related to sustainable food and agriculture, and its integration in the updated National Agriculture



THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Workers in the village of Pascani, Republic of Moldova, participate in a project to package and eliminate obsolete pesticides.
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and Rural Development Strategy 2014–2020. Three technical workshops on SDG implementation and monitoring also have been organized by FAO in Republic of Moldova to raise awareness on the role of sustainable food and agriculture for the achievement of the SDGs within the core principle of leaving no one behind, as well as to strengthen national statistical capacities in SDG indicators and to facilitate a cross-sectoral dialogue on the 2030 Agenda among a wide range of stakeholders, including non-state actors.

Similar projects in support of SDG implementation and monitoring are also being implemented by FAO in other



THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

A farmer harvests and cleans onions in the Republic of Moldova.
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countries of the region, such as Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Turkey.

UKRAINE

Learning modern agriculture methods and know-how

SDGs **1** **2** **8** **17**

The agricultural sector in Ukraine is facing challenges in terms of outdated agricultural equipment and lack of knowledge of new and profitable farming methods, including on the sustainable use of natural resources, the use of satellite navigation, farming of new crops, and access to profitable markets.

Through funding from the Central European Initiative, FAO and the European Bank for Reconstruction

and Development (EBRD) have teamed up with local private companies and academic experts to enhance the knowledge on sustainable farming in Ukraine in support of farmers.

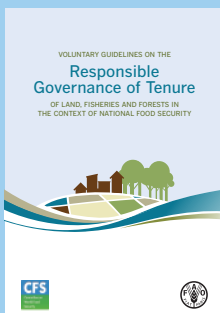
The training combined in-person and online workshops and field visits, with the aim of providing farmers with the most recent technological skills and know-how on the use of fertilizers, crop production and protection, and economic efficiency. Some farmers joined a practical field training course in France to see first-hand how local farmers apply best agricultural practices there.

The goal of FAO and the EBRD is to empower the private sector and maximize Ukraine's potential

to feed the world's growing population, contributing to the achievement of a number of SDGs, including targets 1.4 (ensure equal rights to economic resources) 2.3 (double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale producers), 2.4 (ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change), 8.2 (achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation) and 17.16 (enhance the global partnership for sustainable development).

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STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS

Enhancing the socioeconomic benefits from forests



<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3710e.pdf>

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

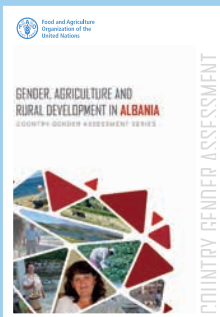
Key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



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THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

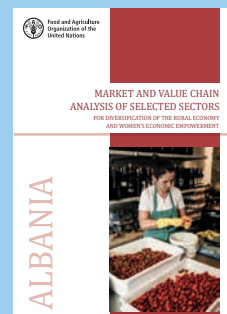
Trends and challenges



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REGIONAL OVERVIEW OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA 2018

The role of migration, rural women and youth in sustainable development



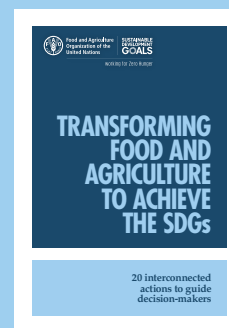
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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA IN A CHANGING CLIMATE



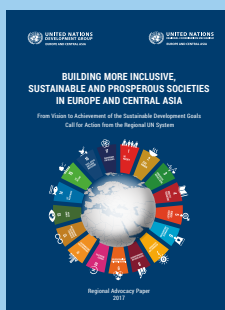
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TRANSFORMING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs: 20 interconnected actions to guide decision-makers



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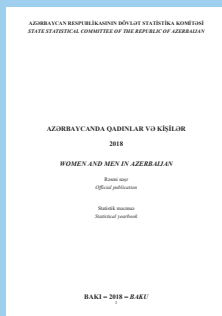
BUILDING MORE INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETIES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA



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AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING

Employed in private owners and family-peasant farms and households



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MAINSTREAMING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Reference Guide to UN Country Teams



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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Key to Achieving the 2030 Agenda
for Sustainable Development
in Europe and Central Asia



SDG IMPLEMENTATION IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Our planet faces multiple and complex challenges in the twenty-first century. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commits the international community to act together to overcome them and transform our world for present and future generations.

From ending poverty and hunger to responding to climate change, sustaining our natural resources and enabling an inclusive

society that leaves no one behind, food and agriculture lie at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda, speeding progress towards all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This publication presents FAO's work in support of the achievement of the SDGs in Europe and Central Asia. Featuring selected country case studies across the region, it describes how FAO and partners are already supporting countries through current projects and programmes to achieve multiple SDG targets.



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