



Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was founded on 16 October 1945 as an authoritative global technical agency to lead international efforts in ensuring food security for all by raising the levels of nutrition and the standards of living of people, securing improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, and improving the condition of rural populations.

As a Specialized Agency of the United Nations, FAO provides a neutral forum for all nations to negotiate agreements and debate policy on defeating hunger in the world as well as a source of knowledge for strengthening agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices to secure sustainable agricultural and rural development. In this endeavour, FAO's experts provide policy guidance, define international standards as well as regulatory frameworks and lend technical support in a wide range of disciplines pertaining to agricultural and rural development (including *inter alia* agriculture production, plant and animal genetic resources, consumer protection, nutrition, food safety, socio-economic development, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, natural resources management and environment etc.).

Presently, FAO has 197 Member Nations including two Associate Member States (Faroe Islands and Tokelau) and one Member Organization, the European Union.

Vision

FAO's ultimate vision is that of "a world free from hunger and malnutrition, where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner".



Integrated Pest Management Project - Farmer Field School - Grape planting at Kermanshah. Photographer Mr. Hossein Heidari.

The Organization's quest to eradicate hunger in the world is embodied in its Latin motto, *fiat panis*, which translates as "let there be bread".

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, FAO's vision guides the Organization's country programme activities in the aim of embedding food security whilst safeguarding the country's natural resources and reinforcing its institutional capacities so as to enable it to play a leading role in the agricultural and rural sectors.

Mission

In order to focus action toward its global goals of food security, elimination of poverty, and sustainable management and

utilization of natural resources, FAO has set itself five Strategic Objectives which embody the Organization's priorities in its fight against hunger.

- Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition – contribute to the eradication of hunger by facilitating policies and political commitments to support food security and by making sure that up-to-date information about hunger and nutrition challenges and solutions is available and accessible.
- Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable – promote evidence-based policies and practices to support highly productive agricultural sectors (crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries), while ensuring that the natural resource base does not suffer in the process.
- Reduce rural poverty – help the rural poor gain access to the resources and services they need – including rural employment and social protection – to forge a path out of poverty.
- Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems – help to build safe and efficient food systems that support smallholder agriculture and reduce poverty and hunger in rural areas.
- Increase the resilience of livelihoods from disasters – help countries to prepare for natural and human-caused disasters by reducing their risk and enhancing the resilience of their food and agricultural systems.

Within the framework of these strategic objectives, FAO's mission in the Islamic Republic of Iran is to continue building upon the policy and technical assistance lent by the Organization since the early 1970s in promoting the sustainable development of the country's agricultural and rural sectors.

Given the current challenges faced within the aforementioned sectors and in line with the priorities jointly defined with the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, FAO is pursuing the implementation of an integrated strategic programme based on a holistic, systemic and technically coherent framework that would enable the nation to redress effectively these challenges. The major pillars of the integrated strategic programme are founded on the following four key dimensions:

- Integrated Water Resources and Land Management, factoring the environmental impact of climate change
- Building Resilience for Enhanced Food Security, Nutrition and Food Safety
- Sustainable Small-scale Agriculture for Inclusive Development, based on agro-ecological approaches and Climate-Smart Agriculture methodologies
- Optimization of Resource Capabilities, through effective capacity development

The Organization's commitment to the delivery on this strategic programme is reinforced by its engaging partnerships with a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the country, ranging from governmental institutions to civil society and community-based organisations.

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