



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

History of Agency in the World and Iran

- 1943: FAO was founded by 44 governments who met in Hot Springs, Virginia, US.
- 1945: the 1st Session of FAO Conference was held in Quebec City, Canada and established FAO as a specialized UN agency.
- 1951: FAO Headquarters moved from Washington, DC, US to Rome, Italy.
- 1953: Effective December 01, Iran is a member to FAO.
- 1981: The first World Food Day observed on 16 October.
- 1992: Effective May, the FAO Representation Office was re-opened in Iran.
- 1996: World Food Summit, Rome, Italy.
- 1997: FAO launched campaign against hunger initiative TeleFood.
- 2002: “World Food Summit 5 Years Later” was held to review WFS achievements.
- 2008: High Level Conference on World Food Security, the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy, Rome, Italy.
- 2009: World Summit on Food Security, Rome, Italy.

FAO’s Vision and Global Goals:

FAO’s vision is a world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture¹ contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner. To foster the achievement of this vision and of the Millennium Development Goals, FAO will promote the continuing contribution of food and sustainable agriculture to the attainment of three global goals:

Reduction of the absolute number of people suffering from hunger, progressively ensuring a world in which all people at all times have sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life; Elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods; Sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources, for the benefit of present and future generations.

FAO’s Strategic Objectives:

Sustainable intensification of crop production; Increased sustainable livestock production; Sustainable management and use of fisheries and aquaculture resources; Sustainable management of forests and trees, land, water and genetic resources, and improved responses to global environmental challenges affecting food and agriculture; Improved quality and safety of food at all stages of the food chain; Enabling environment for markets to improve livelihoods ; Improved food security and better nutrition; Improved preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agriculture threats and emergencies; Gender equity in access to resources, goods, services and decision-making in rural areas; and, Increased and more effective public and private investment in agriculture and rural development.

1 Agriculture encompasses all aspects



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Main projects/activities in Iran

In line with the priorities of the Government for sustainable agriculture and rural development, FAO’s focus, in the medium term is to seek enhanced investment in agriculture, especially, at the value-chain level, to increase income and employment opportunities for the rural poor.

FAO has assisted Iran in the preparation of Framework for Sustainable Agriculture Development Strategy in June 2005. Similarly, the National Strategy and Action Plan on Drought Preparedness, Management and Mitigation in the Agriculture Sector was prepared in 2007 to enhance the capacity of Government in disaster management.

The 3 to 5 years Country Programming Framework (CPF) is being finalized to contribute to the Government’s endeavors towards sustainable agriculture and rural development. CPF aims at:

- (a) mainstreaming the rural and low-income farmers in the development process to improve their livelihood, food security and nutritional status;
- (b) harnessing the network of research and academic institutions and high quality expertise of Iran to assist other countries of the region through the South-South Cooperation;
- (c) promoting agri-commercialization and export oriented agriculture.

FAO has assisted Iran Fisheries Organization to develop a comprehensive programme of fisheries development to ultimately achieve per annum target of 1.5 million tons of production as per the Vision 2025 Document.

FAO’s technical assistance within the framework of sustainable fisheries development and ecosystem based approach could be given in the following possible areas:

- (i) Marine fisheries development;
- (ii) Aquaculture development;
- (iii) Value chain investment to capture the export markets; and,
- (iv) Institutional and capacity strengthening.

Assistance in the seed sector has also been provided to ensure:

- (a) more efficient seed production, distribution and marketing systems; and
- (b) enhanced plant variety protection capacity in the country.

FAO has also introduced a novel participatory and environmentally friendly approach through Farmer Field Schools to promote organic agriculture and biological control of pests and diseases in various crops including wheat, cucumber, tomato, olive, etc. A project to protect pistachio crop and industry from aflatoxin contamination is also being implemented.

FAO has assisted the Government in preparing an important project document for submission to and review/consideration by GEF Secretariat: “*Rehabilitation of Forest Landscapes and Degraded Land with Particular Attention to Saline Soils and Areas Prone to Wind Erosion*”.

In the animal health sector, FAO is assisting the Government to combat Foot-and-Mouth Disease and institute measures for prevention and control of Avian Influenza.

FAO, through international communication campaigns, such as World Food Day and Telefood, plays an important role in raising public awareness of hunger and poverty in mobilizing support for achieving food security.