



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FAO in Africa Impacts in 2021



FAO in Africa Impacts in 2021

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Accra, 2022

Required citation:

FAO. 2022. *FAO in Africa–Impacts in 2021*. Accra.

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9173en>

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

ISBN: 978-92-5-135951-8

© FAO, 2022



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo/legalcode>).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the FAO logo is not permitted. If the work is adapted, then it must be licensed under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: "This translation was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original English edition shall be the authoritative edition."

Disputes arising under the licence that cannot be settled amicably will be resolved by mediation and arbitration as described in Article 8 of the licence except as otherwise provided herein. The applicable mediation rules will be the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/mediation/rules> and any arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Third-party materials. Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

Sales, rights and licensing. FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/publications) and can be purchased through publications-sales@fao.org. Requests for commercial use should be submitted via: www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request. Queries regarding rights and licensing should be submitted to: copyright@fao.org.

Cover Photography: ©FAO/Luis Tato

FOREWORD

This first ever *FAO in Africa–Impacts in 2021* report presents a summary of the main priorities, developments and results achieved by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the Africa region in 2021. As COVID-19 continued throughout 2021, FAO's team in Africa continued to function in an adaptive, responsive and agile manner, taking advantage of digital innovations to mitigate the disruptive impacts of the pandemic.

FAO in Africa: Impacts in 2021 is organized according to the Four Betters identified in FAO's Strategic Framework 2022–2031. The Framework seeks to support the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.

In 2021, FAO focused its work in the Africa region through the three Regional Initiatives: (1) Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025; (2) Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development in Africa; and (3) Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands. These Regional Initiatives served as a mechanism for delivery at country level, facilitating greater impact of FAO's work on the key priorities in the region under the results framework for the 2020–21 biennium.

Upon the recommendation of the 31st Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC31) for FAO to further refine the regional initiatives, taking into consideration emerging regional and global developments and guided by the new FAO Strategic Framework, four regional thematic priorities have been defined, through a consultative process. These are aligned with the Four Betters, and frame our work for 2022 and beyond. These include:

1. sustainable agrifood production systems;
2. efficient and equitable food and nutrition systems;
3. climate action and sustainable natural resource management and
4. building resilience, ending poverty.

In 2021, the first year of entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), we promoted intra-African trade in agricultural products and services, and advocated for women and the poor to be included in Africa's trade revolution.

We helped countries control a record desert locust outbreak.

We engaged with member countries and the African Union to ensure African views were presented at the UN Food Systems Summit.

We mobilized USD 485 million in voluntary contributions to support 170 new projects in the region; and implemented 677 projects in 2021, with a total expenditure of USD 360 million.

This report shows real progress is being made in Africa. However, there is still much work to do. In 2022, we will continue to work with our partners to support countries towards achieving better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind.

Abebe Haile-Gabriel

Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	iv
BETTER PRODUCTION	1
BETTER NUTRITION	7
BETTER ENVIRONMENT.....	12
BETTER LIFE	16
INNOVATION ACROSS THE FOUR BETTERS	21
PARTNERSHIPS.....	24
COMMUNICATIONS	28

A man in a blue raincoat and black rubber boots is working in a field. He is bent over, tending to rows of young plants in a field. The background is a lush green landscape with trees and a blue cloth hanging in the distance.

BETTER PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, through efficient and inclusive food and agriculture supply chains at local, regional and global level, ensuring resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in a changing climate and environment.



➤ Sustainable production intensification and value chain development in Africa

Strategic frameworks have been developed in collaboration with the African Union to support harmonized implementation and tracking of progress towards sustainable production intensification and value chain development in member countries. In 2021, some of these achievements included:

- Collaborated with UNIDO and the African Union Commission (AUC) to develop and disseminate baseline reports and action plans for implementation of youth entrepreneurship and agribusiness projects in Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Tunisia and Zambia, under the FAO-UNIDO Opportunities for Youth in Africa (OYA) Programme. FAO in partnership with the AUC developed Guidelines for Investment in Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness in Africa which aims to strengthen the capacity of member countries to design and implement youth-centred investments for decent employment in agrifood systems. The Guidelines have been endorsed by the 4th AU Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment on 14 December 2021 and subsequently approved by the AU Summit in February 2022. The guidelines will be formally launched during ARC32.
 - Developed a massive open online course (MOOC) on youth agripreneurship in Africa, in partnership with the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM). The MOOC combines entrepreneurship best practices with the agrifood value-chain approach championed by FAO. In 2021, the course began being piloted in Uganda.
 - Supported the formulation of national agricultural mechanization strategies for the operationalization of the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA).
- Working with the AUC and the African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT), and with key stakeholders from both the public and private sector, FAO provided knowledge products, guidelines, best practices and innovations to support the operationalization of F-SAMA for improved productivity and competitiveness along agrifood systems in Africa.
- Supported member countries in implementation of policies and international instruments through facilitating two FAO statutory regional bodies, namely the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA), and the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) in Africa, for coordinated approaches on shared fisheries stocks, enhanced regional policy dialogues and integration of science-based management advice.
 - Facilitated expert knowledge exchange and transfer in post-harvest fish utilization in Africa focusing on fresh or live fish handling, fish processing, quality and safety, post-harvest loss assessment and marketing.
 - Supported the African Union to carry out a survey of status, opportunities and challenges of irrigation and agricultural water management practices in Africa to advance domestication of the AU Framework for Irrigation Development and Agricultural Water Management, which FAO helped prepare.
 - Developed and rolled out Integrated Pest Management packages to address Fall Armyworm infestations in four demonstration countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya and Malawi) to support implementation of the Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control. Validated technologies are being scaled up in major agro-ecological zones with particular focus on small-scale farms.
 - Strengthened the capacities of African public and private organizations in Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Antimicrobial Use (AMU) surveillance to improve disease prevention, control, response and management to promote trade, in collaboration with the AU and UNEP.

- Promoted the Digital Agriculture Profiles (DAPs), a pre-investment policy tool aimed at measuring the readiness for digital transformation of agricultural sectors, to guide policy and decision makers in the elaboration of a suitable policy framework for digital transformation in agrifood systems in Cote d'Ivoire and Kenya. DAPs including mobile, data, blockchain, and weather station technologies provided the most promising high-impact solutions for addressing challenges facing Kenyan agricultural stakeholders.
- Provided food loss assessments, situation analysis and intervention options for selected value chains, especially in the context of COVID-19, to agribusiness small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs), including women and youth-led SMEs, and private and public organizations in West Africa to reduce Post Harvest Losses (PHL) for food security and nutrition.
- Reinforced the Codex Alimentarius structures of the AU, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and member countries to promote the roll out of agricultural incubation initiatives and implementation of the PHL and food safety frameworks for improved trade. In some countries such as Senegal and Burkina Faso, FAO supported efforts towards strengthening capacity for integrated surveillance and response to food safety emergencies. It has enabled these countries to develop and operationalize national food safety emergency response plans, the first of its kind in the African region save South Africa, which has a response plan for the plant sector.
- The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)'s Ministers for Agriculture endorsed a new strategy on post-harvest loss management which was developed with FAO's technical support. A crop sector strategy for Eastern Africa (2021-2026) was also developed through FAO's support.

➤ One Country, One Priority Product (OCOP)



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Activities related to the One Country, One Priority Product (OCOP) initiative were started in the Africa region during 2021. Initial proposals were made to identify potential commodities, and best practices and knowledge products from the region were used to strengthen the regional perspectives of the Framework of Global Action on Green Development and guidelines for country project applications. In 2021, preparations also began for the official regional launch of OCOP in March 2022.

➤ Implementation of the One Health Approach

Some of the notable One Health related achievements include:

- Capacity strengthening on joint risk assessments to support the implementation of the FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite Technical Zoonotic Guide; supporting national bridging workshops in several countries of the IHR-PVS International Health Regulation (WHO) - Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE); heightened advocacy through organizing events such as the World Antimicrobial Awareness Weeks and World Rabies Days; and preparation of AMR Multi-Partner Trust Funds projects in five countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, and Zimbabwe.



- In partnership with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), four countries in Central Africa (the Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Gabon) were supported to develop their national rabies elimination plan utilizing the stepwise approach toward rabies elimination (SARE).

➤ Mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted African countries in myriad ways throughout 2021. The FAO Regional Office for Africa developed and published [Africa Regional Action Sheets](#) to support member countries and regional entities in developing COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programmes. Priorities included: (i) preventing the next zoonotic pandemic, (ii) trade and food safety standards, (iii) boosting smallholder resilience for recovery, (iv) economic inclusion and social protection to reduce poverty, and (v) agrifood systems. The COVID-19 Regional Action Plans were used to design country and regional initiatives for COVID-19 response and recovery.



Assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture, food security and nutrition in Africa

A detailed synthesis study, [Assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture, food security and nutrition in Africa](#) was published in 2021 which analyzed the direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic on Africa's macroeconomics, agricultural production, markets, value chains, trade, and food security.

A policy brief was published on the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture, food systems and rural livelihoods in Eastern Africa. The brief was derived from the preliminary analyses of the impact of the pandemic in the subregion. It provided policy options for safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable people. Countries were supported in several ways, for example in Senegal through the Household Food Baskets (Panière de la Ménagère) initiative, more than 3 000 vulnerable households (about 20 000 people) received a basket of household food and sanitary items, and more than 5 000 small agripreneurs (mostly women) benefitted by providing products for the basket.

In collaboration with partners, including the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Union, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Bank (WB) and the World Food Programme (WFP), FAO supported the African Union to establish and co-chair a joint COVID-19 Taskforce, which increased policy support, investments, advocacy and programming for COVID-19 response and recovery. Efforts in 2021 were directed at developing action-oriented solutions, including sharing knowledge products and good practices, and enhancing national and regional capacities, in collaboration with UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and other development partners.

Among the notable achievements of the FAO collaboration with the AU through the Taskforce was the convening, for the first time ever, of a joint meeting of Ministers of Agriculture, Ministers of Trade and Ministers of Finance in July 2020, to support multi-sectoral collaborative actions to implement the Action Plans.



FAO in collaboration with the World Bank provided a food price monitoring system in the context of COVID-19 to support development partners, governments and private and public organizations in Africa track emerging food insecurity trends and food price movements during the pandemic, to support response and recovery initiatives to improve food security and nutrition.

➤ Best practices for better production

Best practices in agriculture, aquaculture and livestock production were developed and provided to farming families, and private and public organizations to improve food security and nutrition in several African countries, including to promote the Green Families Initiative in Gabon, and short value chains and urban-rural food linkages in Senegal.

In the Gambia and Zimbabwe, farmers were supported to produce bio-fortified crop varieties (orange-fleshed sweet potato, cassava, Vitamin A-rich maize, iron and zinc rich sugar bean and cowpea). In Madagascar, farmers were supported in hybrid rice production to improve agricultural productivity. In Ghana and Nigeria, aquaculture sector development was supported.

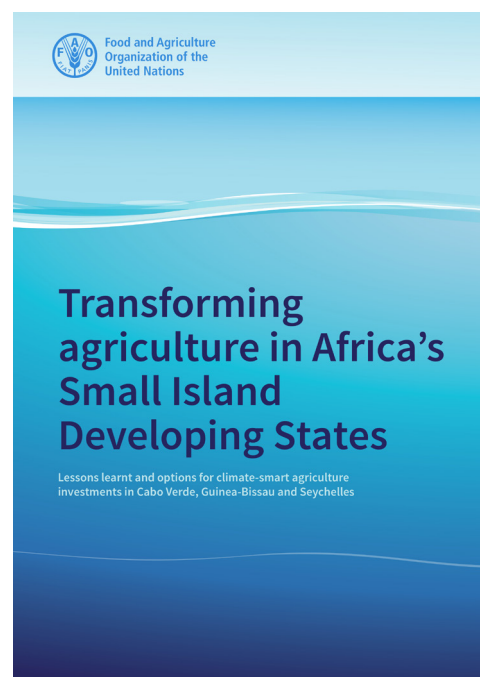
FAO also contributed to the increase in agricultural production through promotion of irrigation and agriculture water management (AWM) practices in Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Gambia, Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

➤ Working together with Africa's Small Island Developing States

Africa's Small Island Developing States (Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Seychelles) face complex and intertwined threats which they are not equipped to combat alone. Many of Africa's SIDS are also considered Least Developed Countries.

In 2021, the FAO Regional Office for Africa published a study on [*Transforming agriculture in Africa's Small Island Developing States*](#) which looks at lessons learned and options for climate-smart agriculture investments in Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and Seychelles.

FAO supported transition strategies towards the Blue Economy in Cabo Verde and São Tomé et Príncipe, including the development of National Investment Plans for Blue Economy, institutional reforms for the reinforcement of Blue Economy governance, and preparation of multiannual plans for promoting the Blue Economy, including mobilizing resources.



➤ Boosting intra-regional trade in Africa

2021 was the first year of implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). FAO has provided a range of support to countries to leverage this opportunity to transform trade in Africa. Achievements in 2021 included:

- Collaborated with the AU to develop and publish the [*Framework for Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services*](#) and to disseminate it to national stakeholders and private and public organizations in ECOWAS and COMESA regions to support intra-regional agricultural trade under the AfCFTA.



- Provided knowledge products, including guidelines for development and harmonization of food control systems and trade facilitation programmes to national stakeholders, private and public organizations in African countries, and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to support their effective participation in the activities of International Standard-Setting Bodies (ISSBs) and contribution to the AfCFTA.
- Supported the formulation of the African Union Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Policy Framework and the AUDA-NEPAD regional harmonized guidelines for food safety standards for improved trade in the Africa region.

➤ The Decade of Family Farming and Yenkasa

The UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDDFF) is being promoted in Africa in part through Yenkasa Africa, a Communications4Development joint platform encouraging experience sharing and information exchange with family farmers. A regional communications campaign was carried out in 2021 which raised awareness on the UNDDFF and the role that family farming plays in achieving sustainable agrifood systems and the 2030 Agenda. Radio and social media content reached a large number of farmers and the general public across several countries, including the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, and Zambia, among others.

In West Africa, FAO collaborated with the Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPO) to develop the sub-regional action plan for the UNDDFF.





BETTER NUTRITION

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition in all its forms, including promoting nutritious food and increasing access to healthy diets.



➤ Africa's commitment to end hunger

FAO provided policy papers, an analytical framework and other knowledge products to the African Union Commission and member countries, such as Gabon and Namibia, to strengthen the policy formulation processes including CAADP country processes for the development of second generation National Agriculture Investment Plans.

FAO supported the organization of several policy dialogues at regional level including on:

- The food security, nutrition and poverty nexus;
- Promoting indigenous foods and scaling up best practices to transform agrifood systems for healthy diets;
- Nutrition-sensitive agrifood systems in response to COVID-19 to promote short value chains and urban-rural food linkages to address urban and child malnutrition;
- Preserving African heritage using agrifood systems during the commemoration of Africa Day of Food and Nutrition Security;
- CAADP Partnership Platform dialogues centred on “Translating Lessons Learnt into Accelerated Action towards 2025 in the context of Malabo Commitments” and “Ending hunger in Africa by 2025 through resilient agrifood systems”;
- Malabo Policy Learning Events (MAPLE) that brought together technical networks, country-level policy practitioners and leaders to discuss important agricultural policy topics, share learning and generate actions that can drive the CAADP Malabo Agenda.
- To support the implementation of the Malabo Declaration commitment on Mutual Accountability to Actions and Results, FAO strengthened national and regional institutional capacities for knowledge and data generation that support evidence-based planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Impacts and achievements under this area included:

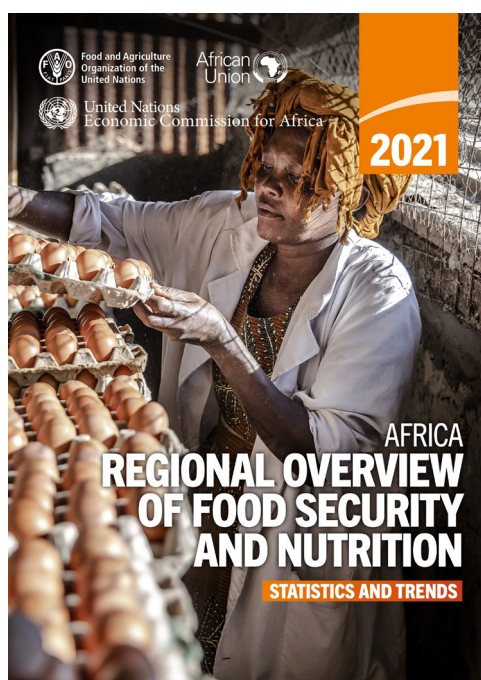
- Strengthened national capacities for food and nutrition-based data collection, analysis and communication in Benin, Burundi, Eritrea, Namibia, Sierra Leone and Togo to support informed decision-making on food security and nutrition. Further databases have been established and published for evidence-based decision making in agriculture, food security and nutrition in Cameroon, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Gabon.
- Forty member countries attended the 27th Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS) which assisted countries in improving data collection, processing, analysis, dissemination, comparability and development of Sustainable Development Goal indicators.
- Supported the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, and provided technical guidance to 12 countries¹ in the implementation of agricultural censuses.
- Supported the African Union, AUDA-NEPAD, and twelve member countries to prepare the third continental Biennial Review report in collaboration with other partners. FAO supported 8 countries to document progress on poverty reduction (SGDI) and ending hunger (SDG2) to complete their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) reports on SDG implementation.

¹ Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, the Niger, Sao Tomé and Principe.



➤ A knowledge leader in nutrition in Africa

In 2021, the FAO Regional Office for Africa produced and disseminated the flagship report the [Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Africa 2020](#) in collaboration with the AUC and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to inform on progress towards achieving SDG2² (Zero Hunger), and published a [statistical update and trend analysis](#) later in 2021 (pictured).



Other achievements included:

- Promoted nutrition tools at country level on Food Based Dietary Guidelines, used these tools to raise consumer awareness on healthy diets, and mainstreamed nutrition in key corporate and strategic documents.
- Supported drafting of a model law on food security and nutrition to governments and national stakeholders in Central, West, and North Africa to support advocacy and political engagement to track progress towards ending hunger and malnutrition and for integration in African Union structures for improved food security and nutrition.
- Strengthened government and national stakeholder capacities and provided data, knowledge products and policy papers for the development of Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the formulation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in 13 African countries currently implementing the new generation UNSDCFs and 33 that are about to embark on this strategic exercise within the next 2–3 years.
- Provided policy papers and knowledge products on healthy and locally available nutritious food options to members and partners to strengthen agrifood systems transformation for better nutrition and livelihoods through advocacy and educational activities, including in Small Island Developing States.
- Published a report on [Home Grown School Feeding](#) programs and a compendium of successful case studies and disseminated it to governments and other stakeholders in African countries to design and implement school feeding initiatives to improve food security and nutrition.
- Supported member countries including Burundi, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Senegal in establishing or strengthening systems for collecting, processing and disseminating agricultural, food security and environmental data and information, and strengthening the production of food security and nutrition indicators.
- Collaborated with the Pan African Parliament (PAP) and its associated Pan African Parliamentary Alliance on Food and Nutrition Security in subregions and countries to boost advocacy for the Zero Hunger commitment and the efforts towards actualising it. For example, in Central Africa subregion, the ECCAS Regional Alliance of Parliamentarians for Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) has been formalized, with 60 percent of member countries in that subregion having established their respective national parliamentary alliances for FSN.

² Angola, Cabo Verde, Chad, Madagascar, Namibia, the Niger, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.



These regional and national alliances have started resource mobilization efforts and dialogue between legislative and executive arms to improve coordination and accountability on agriculture and FSN.

- Strengthened the capacity of governments, including Burkina Faso, Comoros, Ethiopia and Kenya, to mainstream nutrition indicators in their policies and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) frameworks with a special focus on mainstreaming trade and nutrition and promoting local, nutrition-sensitive value chains for food security and nutrition. Stakeholders and customs officials in Small Island Developing States were trained in nutrition-sensitive trade policies and regulations.
- Trained street food vendors on healthy food environments in Accra, Ghana and Dar es Salam, the United Republic of Tanzania, many of whom are informal women traders. FAO partnered with the European Union in the Gambia to train national stakeholders on biofortification and nutrition-sensitive value chains development and supported the roll out of biofortified seeds.

Also in 2021, a collection of impact stories on FAO's work across Africa in nutrition was published: [*Stories from Africa: Changing lives through diversified healthy foods*](#) (pictured).



These stories highlight FAO's cross-cutting work on nutrition from micro-gardens in Senegal to innovative farming techniques in Eritrea, and from raising chickens in Cameroon to promoting nutrition-sensitive agriculture in Rwanda.

FAO also produced a policy brief on the potential impact of the disease on the nutrition and income nexus. The brief was produced as an educational and advocacy instrument. FAO also supported quick messaging for healthy diets during COVID-19 in Zimbabwe. This advocacy included a collaboration between FAO, the European Union and local artists to produce a local song that promotes healthy eating in the United Republic of Tanzania.

FAO developed a collaboration with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) to advocate for adopting indigenous foods to transform food systems for healthy diets.

Internal nutrition coordination was strengthened through a workshop with nutrition focal persons at country and sub-regional level, with the participation of FAO Representatives, where the FAO nutrition strategy and its regional implications were presented.

Cameroon, Congo and Gabon were supported through an FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project to promote green classes for innovative, educational and nutritious production. A training manual was developed to support capacity building activities in the countries. Following the project implementation and with the good results achieved, the government of Cameroon has funded a new project to scale up the green classes approach in the country. The approach was used by the Government of Gabon to implement [*Gabon Famille Verte*](#) that aimed to support and strengthen the capacity of Gabonese families to produce fruits and vegetables during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gabon was supported to develop its first Food-based Dietary Guidelines (FBDG). Following the development of the FBDG, a booklet of culinary recipes based on local products is being finalized.



Congo and Gabon parliamentarians were supported in identifying capacity building needs for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems.

The workshops were conducted in collaboration with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). Through the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme funded by the EU, with co-funding from Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) and

Agence Française de Développement (AFD), FAO implemented demonstration initiatives in 13 African countries to increase access to sustainable sources of protein for the most vulnerable by promoting community-based sustainable wildlife management, and strengthening the capacities of local communities, the private sector and governmental officials to develop alternative and safe protein sources to wildmeat.





BETTER ENVIRONMENT

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and combat climate change (reduce, reuse, recycle, residual management) through more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.



➤ Greening Africa's cities

FAO's Green Cities Initiative was launched in the Africa region to trigger transformative actions for increasing people's well-being through better availability of and access to products and services provided by urban and peri-urban forestry, agriculture and food systems.

The first phase of the Green Cities Regional Action Programme for Africa (GC-RAPA) was rolled out in 2021. This phase targeted 15 cities in Africa with innovative quick-win actions to develop the capacity of local stakeholders to integrate food systems, urban and peri-urban agriculture and urban forests and trees into local planning and actions.

Several existing projects were incorporated into the Green Cities Initiative implementation, including the City Region Food System programme in Antananarivo, Madagascar and Kigali, Rwanda and support for food governance in Kisumu and Nairobi cities in Kenya.

In Senegal, Rwanda and Kenya, FAO piloted quick win activities to turn open spaces green such as block plantation, avenue plantation, tree parks, school gardens and urban agriculture. In Rwanda, FAO and the City of Kigali planted more than 18 000 fruit, ornamental and shade trees in 2021. In Dakar, Senegal, 16 000 trees were planted. In Mombasa, Kenya, close to 12 000 trees were planted in collaboration with the Environmental Trust of Kenya. Community engagement, alliances and partnerships have been built to sustain the effort.



The First African Forum on Urban Forests (AFUF) was jointly organized by FAO and UN Habitat in 2021 to exchange experiences and lessons learned and discuss strategies for a greener, healthier and happier future for African cities. The event was organized in response to the recommendations of the 22nd Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) held in March 2020 in South Africa and the priorities of the African Union Member States and Commission as reflected in the AU's Sustainable Forest Management Framework 2020–2030, the formulation of which was supported by FAO and adopted by the AU in 2020. More than 700 people registered for the event, including representatives of national and local governments, research and academic institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international and national development cooperation organizations, professors, researchers, urban planners, urban foresters, arborists, landscape designers, urban forest and tree specialists, government officials and private sectors professionals from the Africa region and beyond.

The Forum identified concrete actions to achieve greener, happier, more inclusive and healthier African cities and urban communities, in line with the [Call to Action](#) and the five standards proposed by the [Tree Cities of the World](#) programme, launched at the [1st World Forum of Urban Forests](#).

➤ Building resilience in Africa's drylands

FAO is supporting the African Union Commission, the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and member countries in the implementation of Africa's Great Green Wall (GGW) through FAO's Action Against Desertification (AAD) programme. FAO's AAD restoration activities are implemented in Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan and have, so far, resulted in restoration of over 60 000 ha of degraded agro-sylvo-pastoral lands, benefitting more than 500 rural communities.



FAO leads the implementation of the GEF-7 Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes, which was endorsed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in June 2021 with a grant of USD 104 million and USD 810 million of co-financing. The project will support eight African countries by providing demand-driven technical support, which includes the development/refinement of selected communities of practice for sustainable dryland management and the documentation and sharing of evidence-based best practices to enhance the programme's overall coherence, scale and impact.

The One Million Cisterns for the Sahel initiative is being implemented in eight African countries benefitting 10 000 women so far with a budget of USD 2.2 million from Italy and other funds from FAO's TCP. The initiative promotes and facilitates the introduction of rainwater harvesting and storage systems for vulnerable communities, especially benefitting women. The objective is to enable them to have access to safe drinking water, have a surplus to enhance their family agricultural production, improve their food security and nutrition and strengthen their resilience.

➤ Supporting climate action

FAO is supporting members in the formulation and implementation of large climate change-related projects, including through the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environmental Fund. Some of these include:

- PREFOREST CONGO – a project to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from forests in five departments in the Republic of Congo, worth USD 29.9 million.
- PROMIRE – a project promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d'Ivoire, worth USD 10 million.
- Scaling up Resilience in Africa's Great Green Wall (SURAGGWA) – the concept note was approved in late 2021 by the Climate Investment Committee (CIC 2) of the GCF,

giving the green light to go ahead and complete formulation of the full funding proposal. The project covers 8 countries in Africa, and will have a total budget of USD 221 million, of which USD 150 million would be a grant from the GCF. This will be the biggest funding proposal that FAO has ever submitted to the GCF.

- The Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR) for a total of USD 20.3 million for Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea.
- Land Degradation Neutrality for Improved Equity, Sustainability, Resilience and Biodiversity conservation for Senegal and Cabo Verde, worth USD 8 million.

Other achievements and impacts include:

- Supported members and the AUC in the formulation and tracking of progress of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to climate action implementation plans in Africa.
- Strengthened the capacities of public institutions on climate finance and innovative tools and approaches to collect, analyze and monitor climate change proven data and establish sound climate change projections. FAO also co-organized a regional training to build the capacity of countries in the West African sub-region in climate finance. The training was rolled for Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and Togo. A training was also organized on the EX-Ante Carbon-balance Tool (EX-ACT) which is based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) methodology for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories.
- Strengthened the capacities of public and private organizations in member countries³ on Conservation Agriculture and Climate Smart Agriculture to facilitate adaptation to climate change.

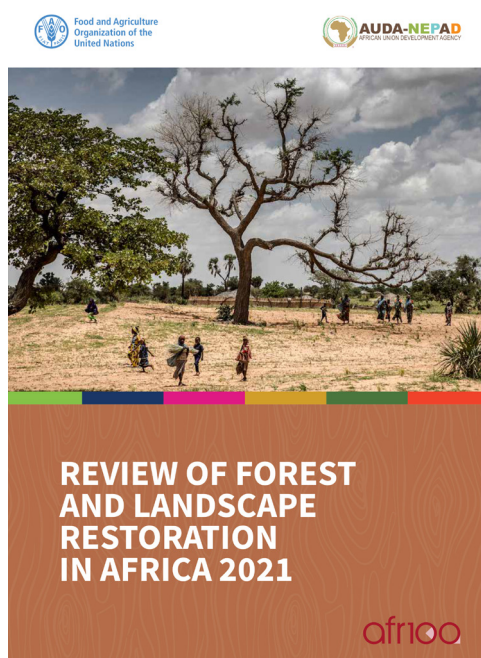
³ Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



- In collaboration with IFAD and WFP, FAO developed the G5 Sahel Joint Regional Program in response to the COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C) Challenges. It is designed to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable rural populations in the Sahel region in a sustainable way to mitigate the COVID-19 crisis, conflicts and the effects of climate change. The USD 180 million, six-year program covers Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Senegal.
- The Horn of Africa and Sahel Virtual Knowledge Share Fair promoted innovations to build resilience against climate shocks.

➤ Forest and landscape restoration

FAO's Regional Office for Africa supported AUDA-NEPAD in the implementation and monitoring of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), and jointly published the [Review of Forest and Landscape Restoration in Africa 2021](#).



FAO also strengthened the capacities of national stakeholders in Africa on Global Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration (GSOCseq), ensuring that countries are equipped with the skills and information to implement bilateral environmental agreements at global and continental level for more improved sustainable natural resource management.

A USD 8.3 million project on Transformation of Forests for People and Climate covering the 15 ECOWAS member countries continued to be implemented throughout 2021.

In Senegal, through mainstreaming ecosystem-based approaches to climate-resilient rural livelihoods in vulnerable rural areas through the Farmer Field School methodology, it was possible to reach 957 farmers via regular voice and SMS messages on weather forecasts from ANACIM and broadcast to around 12 500 producers and breeders via community radios and field schools. This is a 100 percent increase in coverage. Ten farmers' organizations in the three agroecological zones have been set up and managed through a climate resilience fund.

Also in 2021, FAO launched the first findings of the [African Open D.E.A.L.: Open Data for Environment, Agriculture and Land](#) which is an initiative developed in collaboration with the AUC and other partners. Africa is the first continent to complete the collection of accurate, comprehensive, and harmonized digital land use and land use change data. It provides a detailed snapshot of the continent, captured through more than 300 000 sampling points collected by 350 operators over two years.



A smiling woman with dark skin, wearing a patterned headscarf and a light-colored short-sleeved button-down shirt, is holding a large green cabbage. She is standing in a market or storage area with wooden shelves and sacks in the background. The lighting is warm and natural.

BETTER LIFE

Promote inclusive economic growth by reducing inequalities, such as between urban/rural areas, rich/poor countries, men/women.



➤ Hand-in-Hand Initiative

The Africa region has made significant progress in rolling out the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. As of the end of 2021, 25 African countries⁴ were at various stages of engagement with the Initiative, and Africa makes up more than half of the list of participating countries globally. FAO in Africa invested close to USD 5 million through Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs) to support 15 member countries to undertake analytic studies and catalyse key investments.

Country engagements included technical studies, identification of programme entry points, prioritising value chains, territories and markets, and specifications for investments and partner consultations.



For example, in Zimbabwe the Hand-in-Hand Initiative is becoming an enabler of the Government's devolution strategy, supporting the process of identifying SDG-aligned investment opportunities in the micro regions. The initiative is developing as an essential platform to build partnerships to mobilize investments to support agriculture and food systems transformation under the National Development Strategy (NDS). It is also enabling a practical partnership arrangement among UN agencies, notably a collaboration between FAO, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UN Women. The United Arab Emirates has committed USD 350 000 to support Zimbabwe under the Initiative.

In Ethiopia, much of the analytical work has been completed such as identifying bottlenecks for enhancing production, marketing and inclusion of the poor and vulnerable in the value chains for avocado, coffee, milk and wheat. An investment prospectus is under formulation for dairy, animal feeding and speciality coffee.

In Burkina Faso, the initiative aims to identify opportunities to increase incomes and reduce inequalities and vulnerabilities of rural populations. It has been strengthening links among ongoing initiatives (such as FAO's AgrInvest), and started building the capacity of government partners to generate and use geospatial data as needs evolve and new data become available. The initiative has appraised the business models of cross-cropping of maize, sorghum, cowpea and sesame, and of irrigated rice and vegetable production and processing. The business models will be upgraded to make them more attractive for public and private investments.

In Mali, one 'agricultural growth pole' or 'agropole' initiative and two priority areas (Kayes region in Western Mali and Koulikoro peri-urban area near Bamako) have been identified after extensive evidence-based analysis and consultation with the government, technical and financial partners, the private sector, civil society organizations and producers' organizations. Partner matchmaking is now underway and a Program Investment Plan is being developed.

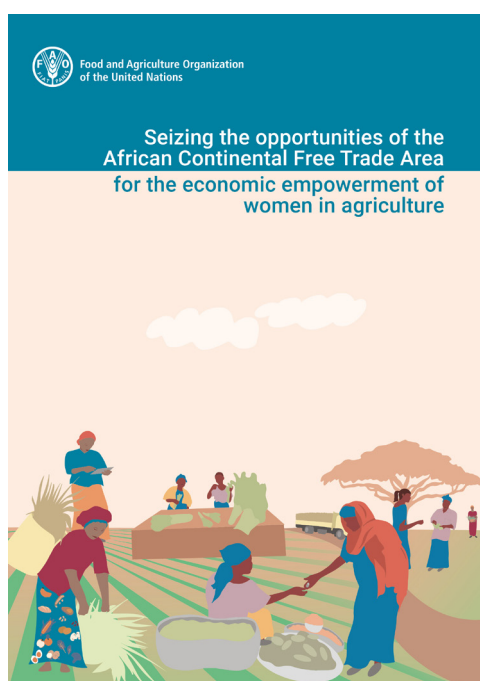
The Hand-in-Hand Initiative in Africa adopts a market-oriented agrifood systems approach to increase the quantity, quality, diversity and accessibility of nutritious foods available in local, regional and national food markets. It works to strengthen agrifood system capacities to deliver nutrition and healthy diets for everyone and improve household incomes to reduce extreme poverty.

⁴Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Chad, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.



➤ Reducing inequalities for Africa's women

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) holds the potential to contribute significantly to eliminating poverty, creating jobs, and improving food security - and women must not be left behind. That was the central theme in a range of activities in 2021 to promote greater gender equality in trade in Africa, including the publication [*Seizing the opportunities of the African Continental Free Trade Area for the economic empowerment of women in agriculture*](#).



The FAO Regional Office for Africa co-organized a policy dialogue on the gendered impacts of COVID-19 and gender-responsive policymaking in agriculture and food systems. The event shared findings from gender assessments and policy stock-takings in Ethiopia, Kenya, the Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, and Zambia, and engaged partners and policy makers in an interactive dialogue.

FAO also supported implementation of the voluntary small-scale guidelines for gender equitable and climate resilient food systems and livelihoods specifically supporting women in the small-scale fisheries post-harvest sector in Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda.

In partnership with the African Risk Capacity, the Regional Office for Africa also organized an online event raising awareness on the importance of gender equality in climate action and disaster risk reduction, which led to the development of a joint policy brief disseminated at COP26, [*Women's leadership and gender equality in climate action and disaster risk reduction in Africa*](#).

Other achievements and impacts in 2021 included:

- Strengthened capacity for the generation and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis for evidence-based policy-making, with Country Gender Assessments completed in Somalia and Chad, and gender indicator mappings conducted in Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- Supported South Sudan to develop a gender action plan and capacities for gender mainstreaming through trainings involving Sudan, Somalia, South Africa and Malawi, and in the fisheries sector in Ghana, Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.
- Published a report on [*Gender-responsive digitalization*](#) including policy recommendations on how the digital revolution can improve social and economic outcomes for women.
- Developed an e-learning micro-course on Rural Poverty and Social Protection in partnership with the UNDP-hosted International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC_IG).
- Developed an action plan to strengthen social protection systems and extend their coverage to rural areas in Eastern and Southern African countries.
- Produced a [*digital report*](#) of IGAD, CILSS and FAO's virtual knowledge Share Fair on promoting innovation to build resilience against climatic shocks. The report supports the uptake and upscale of 25 good practices shared, discussed and disseminated during the Share Fair.



- Delivered a capacity strengthening workshop with IGAD on 'Enhancing the resilience and self-reliance of migrants, refugees and host communities in Eastern Africa.' The workshop saw the exchange of lessons learned and opportunities examined for adapting and improving current policies and programming on migration, rural development and resilience.
- Improved the capacities of governments and civil society organizations in 13 African countries to design, formulate and implement inclusive and gender-transformative policies, programmes and strategies to ensure equal participation of women, men, youth, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized populations in the forestry/ natural resource management sector, as part of the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme.

➤ Resilience and responding to emergencies

FAO supports countries in building household, community and institutional resilience to more effectively prevent and respond to threats and disasters that affect agriculture, food security and nutrition.

FAO, in collaboration with partners, contributed significantly to the response efforts for a number of emergencies in the Africa region in 2021. Some of the major achievements and impacts included:

- In South Sudan, where FAO is carrying out its largest emergency and resilience operation in Africa, more than 685 000 households were reached with emergency and livelihoods assistance in 2021. The portfolio of projects is valued at around USD 135 million. During the main and second planting seasons, FAO reached more than 3.6 million people with seeds, fishing kits and other support. To safeguard the livelihoods of 380 000 pastoralist families, FAO vaccinated over 6.38 million animals and provided health treatment to 1.97 million animals.

FAO and partners trained more than 500 Community Animal Health Workers to build resilience and protect livestock assets through the provision of animal health services at community level.

- In Somalia, more than 535 000 households were reached with emergency and resilience support in 2021, including support to 116 000 households through cash-based transfers – FAO's largest cash support program in Africa. Another of FAO's major emergency and resilience operations in Africa is in Ethiopia where more than 407 000 households were reached in 2021 with livelihoods support.
- The fully-funded FAO appeal for USD 230 million allowed ground and aerial operations to treat 2.3 million ha of land affected by the Desert Locust swarms in the Horn of Africa and Yemen. Through this collective effort it has been possible to avert 4.5 million MT of crop losses, save 900 million litres of milk production, and secure food for nearly 42 million people. The commercial value of the averted cereal and milk loss is estimated at USD 1.77 billion.
- FAO's Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) provided timely and accurate early warning and forecasts throughout the upsurge. Under the auspices of the L3 Locust Emergency, DLIS collaborated with numerous academic, research and private sector partners, resulting in 16 new innovations that have been integrated into DLIS and national locust programmes to further improve monitoring and early warning. Drones for locust surveys were introduced in several African countries with the support of the Desert Locust Regional Commissions in the Central and Western Region (CRC and CLCPRO).
- Outbreaks of African Migratory Locust (AML) in Southern Africa, covering Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe were also controlled, with funds of USD 4.9 million. This effort resulted in the effective and timely suppression of the AML in the five affected countries through setting up of locust control units, procurement of equipment for locust surveillance,



and broad support to locust control field activities. With this, the food and nutrition security and livelihoods of up to 2.8 million vulnerable people in the five affected countries were protected.

- Strengthened the resilience of cross-border pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in the Sahel, particularly in the Liptako Gourma area, through the Global Network Against Food Crises Partnership Programme (GLONET) in Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger, with a EUR 9.1 million budget. The programme is supporting livelihoods through better prevention and mitigation approaches, better preparedness and better response to recurrent food, nutrition and pastoral crises and through the promotion of information sharing for informed decisions and actions.
- In the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Chad, through financial support from Germany, the European Union and the United Kingdom, vulnerable smallholder farmers were assisted to increase their agricultural production and productivity through sustainable and nutrition-sensitive approaches. In addition, livelihoods of vulnerable communities and households have been supported through improved market access, income diversification and women's empowerment.
- In Cameroon, FAO is implementing an emergency livelihood support project aimed at improving the livelihood and nutrition of the most vulnerable families in crisis-affected communities in the North West and South West regions.

➤ Building peace

FAO's conflict-sensitive projects are implemented in fragile, conflict-affected and/or post-conflict settings, where institutions may be weak, societal relations are fractured, and access to resources is constrained or highly competitive.

For instance, FAO has 22 ongoing Peace Building Fund projects in Africa at around USD 19.3 million in 13 countries⁵.

In Cameroon, Central Africa Republic and Chad, community based conflict prevention and resolution committees have been established or reactivated along transhumance corridors. Community-owned fodder crop areas with water sources were developed in northern Cameroon as a solution to reduce pressure on natural resources.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, FAO in close cooperation and coordination with the government and development partners, in particular WFP and UNICEF, is supporting vulnerable populations facing conditions of extreme socioeconomic vulnerability and multidimensional poverty linked to intra-community instability, unresolved inter-ethnic rivalries, mismanagement and misallocation of economic resources, aggravated by the complex management of migratory flows, including Congolese expelled from Angola identified as returnees. The programs and projects implemented by FAO adopt an integrated cooperation approach based strongly on sustainable development assistance in the agricultural and social sectors, while also pursuing humanitarian and peacebuilding actions.

In Chad, FAO worked in cooperation with government and development partners (WFP, UNDP, IOM) for the consolidation of peace and security between farming and pastoralist communities in the provinces of Salamat, Sila and Ouaddaï. A large project "Food Systems Resilience Building Program" (USD 27 million) was approved by the European Union with the objective of strengthening the food and nutrition security in 160 villages of four provinces of the country.

⁵ Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

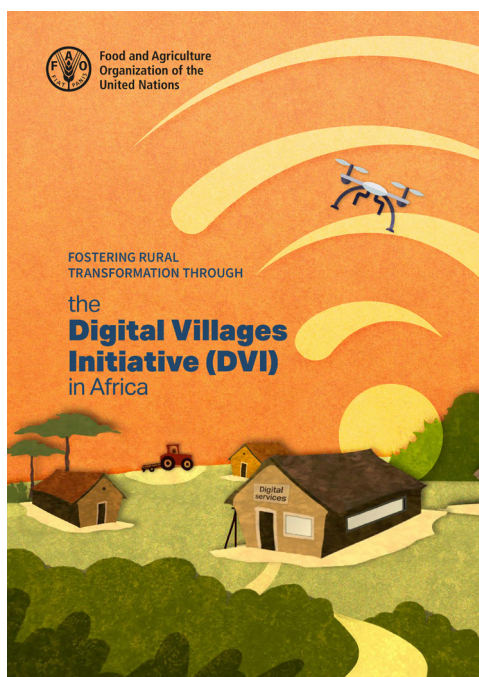




INNOVATION ACROSS THE FOUR BETTERS

➤ Digital Villages Initiative (DVI)

Under FAO's 1000 Digital Villages Initiative, a pilot was designed and implemented in seven countries in Africa⁶ in 2021. Scoping assessments to understand the agrifood and digital environments and the conditions for successful implementation of the Initiative were conducted in the seven countries between July and November 2021. The scoping studies were used to identify potential villages for the Initiative's interventions.



Leveraging initial findings of the scoping exercises, three countries, Kenya, Somalia and Senegal, started preparatory activities by fine-tuning digital platforms or testing new digital agriculture services to prepare a full project launch. In Senegal, farmers in the Niayes region, for example, started receiving agricultural good practices involving agronomic tips, climate smart services and support for market access through their mobile phones in local and French languages.

This was done through partnership with the national extension agency ANCAR, using the FAO-supported digital platform SAIDA, as well as a water management digital service operated by local digital entrepreneurs.

⁶ Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Somalia.

In Somalia, the pre-launched activities involved developing a digital platform and digital content that enabled Farmer Field Schools and Village Savings and Loans Associations in the Baidoa region to access expert knowledge and information on agriculture, nutrition and basic financial management via radios and SMS.

Through these activities, including multistakeholder events that were organized in all the seven countries, the Africa DVI pilot also contributed to increased awareness on the importance of the use of digital tools to boost rural transformation. Adequate resource mobilisation will facilitate the full launch of the DVI in these countries and beyond, building on initial results and platforms.

A knowledge sharing and learning event, involving FAO, its partners and key stakeholders, provided a platform to share insights from the DVI pilot studies, get stakeholder and expert feedback and mobilise interest and partnerships for scaling up within and beyond the pilot countries.

The Digital Villages Initiative is an integrated development vision that enshrines digitalisation at the core of rural transformation and prosperity. A publication (pictured), [The Digital Villages Initiative in Africa](#) was published in December 2021.

➤ Securing land tenure

Across Africa, insecure tenure rights can leave people marginalized and vulnerable to eviction from their homes and farms, with women particularly at risk of being unable to prove they own their land. In 2021, Kenya made a breakthrough in the recording of land tenure, after an FAO project supported its digitising of records into an online public registry. The registry - known as Ardhisasa - allows a land transaction to be carried out in 48 hours instead of what used to be more than 6 months, with a tenure search now taking just 3 to 5 minutes.

➤ Regional Technical Platform (RTP)

The Regional Technical Platform on Common Agricultural Policies and Practices in Africa was developed in 2021 to share best practices, knowledge, experiences and resources on innovations and policy actions to enhance efficient and responsible production and improve resilience in agrifood systems.

The RTP developed content materials and compiled knowledge products on implementation of the National Agricultural

Investment Plans as a common policy and investment framework within the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

Engagements with parliamentarians to enhance their capacity for political commitment and advocacy and to design policy and programme initiatives for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been ongoing.

The online platform will be launched in April 2022 at the 32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC32).





PARTNERSHIPS

Working better together

Throughout 2021, the FAO Regional Office for Africa strengthened its collaboration with partners including the governments of member countries, the African Union, development partners, research and academic institutions and the private sector. We continue to work closely with rural communities including farmers', fishers' and producers' organizations and small-to-medium enterprises.

Notable partnerships and stakeholder engagement in 2021 included:

- Collaboration, consultations and inclusive policy dialogue with the wider stakeholders, including the AUC and UNECA, to support the governments, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and African Union Commission (AUC) and United Nations Development System (UNDS) at national, sub-regional and regional level respectively for the UN Food Systems Summit. At the country and regional level, these consultations brought together the diverse voices of smallholder producers/family farmers, youth and women, and indigenous people to provide African perspectives on the key themes of the UN Food Systems Summit.
- FAO developed a number of partnerships with private firms. For example, a partnership with Mandulis Energy Limited, a pioneer private firm in Uganda, helped to generate and supply on-grid and off-grid renewable biogas energy, connect farmer groups, refugees and the host communities to market by supplying agriculture residue and produce at fair market prices, and improve their access to alternative energy sources at an affordable price.
- FAO and JR Farms Limited, a youth-led agribusiness, collaborated to promote youth agri-preneurship through capacity development training and improved access to equity funds in Rwanda.
- Collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the CGIAR Gender Platform to generate evidence on the gender impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and gender-responsiveness of policy response in seven countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Collaboration with UNIDO and the AUC in a tripartite partnership under the Opportunities for Youth in Africa (OYA) Programme.
- Collaboration with regional research organizations, such as FARA, CIAT-Bioversity and CIFOR-ICRAF to advance on Climate Smart Agriculture in Africa.
- Collaboration with IGAD to improve prevention and control of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) through the RVF Decision Tool (RVF-DST), a web-based platform that integrates forecasting, remote-sensing and expert knowledge on RVF.
- Collaboration with SADC in the development of the SADC Regional Resilience Framework that was endorsed by the SADC member countries and used to harmonize their efforts to mobilize resources for resilience building initiatives and the SADC Framework for Antimicrobial Resistance Control.
- FAO and its partners have been engaged in the development and implementation of the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) for the analysis and identification of areas at risk and populations affected by food and nutrition insecurity in the Sahel and West Africa. The CH classifies the severity of food and nutrition insecurity based on the international classification scale through an approach that refers to well-defined functions and protocols. CH results are communicated in a clear, coherent, and effective manner, so as to support decision-making by linking information to action. FAO being the Chair has been supporting 18 countries to undertake such analysis and prepare adequate response plans.

FAO in Africa also worked with more than 60 public and private resource partners who financially supported the implementation of many projects across the region.

Top 20 Resource Partners in 2021

#	Resource Partner	Total amount (USD)	Number of Projects
1	European Union	86 396 949	31
2	GEF - Global Environment Facility	64 520 766	31
3	United States	64 246 573	14
4	GCF - Green Climate Fund	43 379 802	18
5	UNOCHA	29 807 302	21
6	Sweden	19 285 807	22
7	Germany	17 481 023	8
8	South Sudan* (UTF - African Development Bank and African Development Fund)	14 100 000	2
9	Canada	12 914 980	10
10	PBF - Peace Building Fund	12 711 255	14
11	Norway	11 830 289	4
12	Guinea-Bissau* (UTF - World Bank)	10 500 000	1
13	Madagascar* (UTF - World Bank)	10 000 000	1
14	World Food Programme Administered Trust Fund	9 814 118	9
15	Japan	9 363 767	6
16	United Kingdom	8 712 129	8
17	Mali* (UTF – IFAD)	7 791 800	1
18	UNJ - UNDP Administered Donor Joint Trust Fund	6 229 357	18
19	Central African Republic* (UTF - World Bank)	4 812 764	1
20	Burkina Faso* (UTF - IFAD and World Bank)	4 650 564	3

*Countries that contributed through Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) agreements established between the government of a given country and FAO. The UTF is a funding modality financed entirely by a government for programmes or projects to be implemented in the country, typically originating from loans and/or grants by international financial institutions (IFIs) such as the African Development Bank, IFAD, the World Bank and also by development partners through budget support.

➤ Supporting mobilisation of investments for agrifood system transformation

- FAO through its Investment Centre (CFI) contributed to the design of 21 public investment projects, financed by international financial institutions (IFIs) and implemented by governments in the Africa region during 2021, for a total value of USD 3.65 billion in investments in Africa's agricultural development and sustainable resource management.

These projects were funded by (in alphabetical order) the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank (WB).

Highlights include a regional Sahel pastoralism project with the World Bank, now in its second phase, through which 13 million people in the Sahel stand to benefit. The project will bring harmonized animal vaccination and disease surveillance activities and the introduction of innovations for healthier animal ecosystems and greater social and economic inclusion, including vocational trainings for women and young people from pastoral households.

- In addition, FAO through its Investment Centre provided implementation support to over 40 investment projects in 29 countries in Africa, including policy assistance that led to 3 agricultural strategies, 12 policy and sector studies, and 7 policy dialogue events in 2021.
- In collaboration with the European Union and the French Agricultural Research Centre (CIRAD), FAO partnered with governments, national experts and institutions, and other stakeholders, to initiate food systems assessments in 27 African countries⁷. The results inform national investment and policy agendas.
- A global study on *Investing in Agricultural Human Capital*, published in 2021 in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), comprised four country case studies in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and Rwanda. The studies show the benefits of investing in people to support market access and market-orientation of farmers and smallholder producers, professionalization of farmer organizations and institutionalization of farmer field schools.
- Other notable publications in 2021 include: [*Agri-Hire in Sub-Saharan Africa: Business models for investing in sustainable mechanization*](#); [*Investment planning for supply to agro-industrial parks: Lessons from sub-Saharan Africa*](#); and [*Renewable energy for agri-food chains: investing in solar energy in Rwanda*](#).

⁷ Benin; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Comoros; Cote d'Ivoire; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Eswatini; the Gambia; Guinea Bissau; Kenya; Liberia; Madagascar; Malawi; Mali; Mauritania; Mozambique; the Niger; Nigeria; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Somalia; South Africa; South Sudan; Uganda; Zambia; Zimbabwe.



COMMUNICATIONS

Sharing our story

The Regional Office for Africa began 2021 with a commitment to prioritise communications, flagging it as one of the region's five internal priorities for the year.

Communications played an important role in highlighting the impacts of FAO's work to a broad array of target audiences including government partners, donor organizations, implementing partners and beneficiary communities. Media and social media were the primary channels to reach these audiences.

Key messages during the year included the urgent need to transform agrifood systems, and messaging on building forward better from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Highlights during the year included the launch of several influential publications, and increase in visitor numbers on the regional website, and growth in the number of followers Twitter.

Media

All senior leaders, FAO Representatives and technical experts in RAF were offered media training in 2021, in line with the region's communications strategy to promote FAO as a knowledge leader. Many took up the training, and these resources remain available, in both English and French, to continue promoting FAO's voice in media opportunities.

Opinion pieces by the FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa were published widely in the region including on issues related to trade, and live TV interviews were carried out, for example with CGTN Africa which broadcasts across the region and internationally.

Press releases on a range of events, publication launches and other topics were distributed to regional media throughout the year, as well as feature stories with a human focus that demonstrated FAO's impact on people's lives.

Social Media and Website

The @FAOAfrica account continued to grow in 2021, with a total of 41 730 Twitter followers for at the end of 2021, a 26 percent increase on 2020. There was a 69 percent increase in the number of posts compared to 2020, and 37.5 percent increase in engagement.

The Regional Office for Africa website received 115 562 total unique visitors in 2021, an increase on the year before.

Publications

Major regional publications produced in 2021 included:

- [*Framework for Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services*](#)
- [*Africa – Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2020*](#)
- [*Assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture, food security and nutrition in Africa*](#)
- [*Stories from Africa: Changing lives through diversified healthy foods*](#)
- [*Transforming agriculture in Africa's Small Island Developing States*](#)
- [*Review of forest and landscape restoration in Africa 2021*](#)
- [*Africa – Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2021 - Statistics and Trends update*](#)
- [*Fostering rural transformation through the Digital Villages Initiative \(DVI\) in Africa*](#)

FAO Regional Office for Africa

www.fao.org/Africa

Twitter: @FAOAfrica

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Accra, Ghana