



FAO Regional Office for Africa



July 2022

Welcome



Welcome to the new edition of *FAO in Africa*, from FAO's Regional Office for Africa. This quarter we aim to update you on the outcomes of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC32) and share news from across the region on our work for Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment and a Better Life, leaving no one behind.

We are excited about progress made under our flagship initiatives such as the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and the Green Cities Initiative in Africa, and we continue to celebrate the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Read on to find out more, and remember this publication is tailored to mobile phones so that you can easily read and share on your phone.

Happy reading.

Abebe Haile-Gabriel
FAO Assistant Director-General
and Regional Representative for Africa

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FEATURE



FAO Director General Qu Dongyu with Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Malawi Madalitso Wirima at ARC32.

Taking action on ARC32

Recommendations from the 32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (11-14 April) were carried to the FAO Council in June, ensuring FAO-wide attention to the issues raised at ARC32.

Sixty-two Ministers from 54 African countries participated in the regional conference in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, with 800 delegates in total. The FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu marking his first visit to Africa as leader of FAO.

Highlights include Members endorsing the four regional thematic priorities for Africa, in conformity with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031's Four Betters: Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment and a Better Life; and an experience-sharing event among Members on successes and best practices towards achieving the Four Betters.

With the African Union, FAO launched new **Investment Guidelines for Youth in Agrifood Systems in Africa**. A new



A theatre group gives a performance about the Four Betters.

Regional Technical Platform (RTP) on Common Agricultural Policies and Practices in Africa was also launched.

Recommendations made by Members include calling on FAO to continue supporting countries to formalize and institutionalize national One Health platforms; accelerate innovation and Africa's digital transformation; and continue technical and resource mobilization support, through the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other mechanisms, for large-scale ecosystem restoration projects. The [full report](#) can be downloaded from the FAO website.

As part of the Africa visit, encompassing Equatorial Guinea, Senegal and South Africa, the FAO Director-General met with Heads of State and Government including President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea and President Macky Sall of Senegal, who is also the current Chairperson of the African Union, and many government ministers and other partners. Discussion focused on priority agrifood systems transformation issues, and opportunities for collaboration on concrete actions to deliver impactful results on the ground.



Eritrea has become the latest African country to join FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HiHI), with a launch event in Asmara in June. Through an FAO Technical Cooperation Project, Eritrea will refine agrifood systems priorities, identify investment gaps, and facilitate coordinated support for transformation.

"We look forward to collaborating closely with the relevant ministries to see Eritrea's agrifood systems reach their full potential,"

FAO Representative in Eritrea Saeed Bantie said.

In Zimbabwe, a high-level roundtable at Victoria Falls in May focused on forging new partnerships under the Initiative in support of investment programmes to improve the lives of the extreme poor and to eradicate poverty.

"I would like to recognize Zimbabwe's lead role in terms of progress being made towards implementing the initiative, and greatly appreciate the exemplary leadership and ownership demonstrated by the Government,"

FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa Abebe Haile-Gabriel said at the event.

News BETTER PRODUCTION

Revitalizing Rwanda's aquaculture sector



FAO and the Government of Rwanda have progressed in charting a way forward on adopting a co-management approach to revitalize the country's aquatic food systems and see farmers move from subsistence to market-oriented aquaculture.

A workshop in Kigali in June on aquaculture co-management, which is a central principle of an ecosystem-based approach to aquaculture, looked at ways to incentivize larger and more comprehensive investments along relevant value chains.

"This means more gainful employment, better incomes, and increased purchasing power for our population,"

said Chantal Ingabire, Director General of Planning in Rwanda's Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources.

Solar irrigation powering Africa's production



Across Africa, solar irrigation is increasingly being turned to as a more viable and sustainable solution for better crop production.

In Burkina Faso, FAO facilitated a workshop with local partners to transfer skills to farmers and extension agents on how to use and maintain solar irrigation systems to water crops and livestock.

In the Gambia, an FAO project funded by the European Union and the Global Environment Facility has set up solar-powered water systems to irrigate community vegetable gardens and provide livestock watering points, boosting food security and livelihoods for rural communities.

News BETTER PRODUCTION

Ending child labour in agriculture



FAO joined rising calls for an end to child labour in agriculture at the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, held in South Africa in May.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, there are now more children in child labour than in the rest of the world combined, and the majority work on family farms.

"This has to stop,"** FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu said. **"We need educated young farmers who are innovative and can feed both their families and the world."

On the sidelines, FAO launched a first-of-its-kind compendium: **Ten years of FAO experience on ending child labour in agriculture in Africa.**

Controlling Fall Armyworm



The Regional Steering Group for Fall Armyworm (FAW) Control in Africa held its second meeting at the start of the quarter. Progress was reported on implementation of the Global Action (GA) for Fall Armyworm in Africa: the four demonstration countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya and Malawi) have rolled out smallholder-oriented Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies for Fall Armyworm. In the field, GA demonstration plots are showcasing sustainable FAW management practices, such as conservation agriculture, intercropping, biological control and bio-pesticides. Current outreach activities with pilot countries include information sharing, and harmonising monitoring.

News

BETTER PRODUCTION

Natural insect traps in Tanzania



Farmers in Tanzania's Kilolo district are the latest to receive training in pesticide-free insect traps and other Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques, under a European Union-funded project. These methods reduce the use of pesticides and minimize impacts on health and the environment. Previously, the farmers had low tomato crop yields in part because of pest infestations and had turned to synthetic pesticides. Now, they are trained in managing empty pesticide containers and using pheromones and other natural insect traps to control pest infestations which has seen their yields, and livelihoods, improve.

News

BETTER NUTRITION

Better food safety in Africa



Africa's food safety was in focus in June at a regional event with the World Health Organization to mark World Food Safety Day. Attendees heard that poor food safety caused not only lost lives but also high costs in lost productivity and medical treatment each year.

The session looked at a range of solutions to strengthen national food control systems across Africa, including governments fostering policy measures covering human health, animal health and agriculture, food businesses promoting a more robust food safety culture, and consumers practising safe food handling at home.

News BETTER ENVIRONMENT

Greening Africa's cities



The city of Bulawayo in Zimbabwe has become the latest metropolis to sign on to FAO's Green Cities Initiative on the continent, joining Antananarivo, Kigali, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, and Quelimane so far. The Initiative aims to improve city living through sustainable urban agriculture, urban forestry and urban food systems.

FAO and Bulawayo city officials signed an agreement committing to promote and improve sustainable and inclusive climate-resilient local food production in and around the city, including shorter food supply chains.

Royal visit to see forestry success



King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium praised efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s Miombo forest to balance livelihoods with restoring the forest ecosystem, on a recent visit to an FAO forestry project.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the project promotes community-owned sustainable forest management to reduce carbon emissions and forest degradation while boosting livelihoods.

"Your contribution to the fight against climate change must inspire us all," King Philippe said.

The project's success has led to the development of a provincial strategy for scaling up community forestry more widely.

News

BETTER LIFE

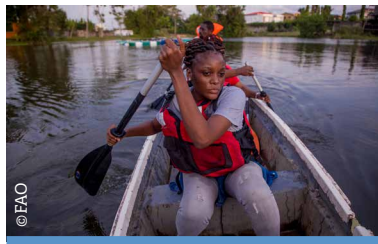
Free of desert locusts



The FAO team in East Africa has announced the end of the devastating desert locust upsurge which first arrived in the region in late 2019, swarming crops and range land across East Africa and Yemen. Thanks to collective efforts by FAO, partners and national authorities, and prevailing climactic conditions, the region is now locust free. By acting early and at scale, FAO and partners were able to prevent a full blown humanitarian crisis.

Promoting gender equality in Africa's small-scale fisheries

Representatives from seven African and two Asian countries met in Accra in June to focus on ways to ensure that small-scale fisheries are gender equitable and climate resilient for better production and livelihoods. It



was part of a progress update for a project funded by FAO's Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism (FMM) to implement the Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines.

In many countries, women dominate the handling, processing, packaging and marketing of fish, but they frequently do not have the same rights and opportunities as men in the sector. The SSF Guidelines in part aim to address this imbalance by promoting gender equality in policy measures and implementation arrangements.

***"I strongly recommend that all FAO Member States should be encouraged to mainstream the principles of the SSF Guidelines into their respective national policies,"** Hon. Mavis Hawa Koomson from Ghana's Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development said.*

Participants from Madagascar, Namibia, Tanzania and Uganda also took part in training on integrating gender in fisheries value chain development.

News PARTNERSHIPS

Zimbabwe wins partnership prize



Zimbabwe's Foundations for Farming (FfF) was one of the big winners at the FAO Awards, jointly winning the Partnership Award.

The committee cited FfF's work to help nine million Zimbabweans achieve household food security for less than \$1 per week.

On receiving the award in Rome, CEO Matthew Mbanga told the audience: "Partnerships are not everything, they are the only thing!...We look forward to continuing our partnership and holding hands to equip and inspire young Africans across the continent to become champions of agriculture."

Partners for Madagascar's agrifood transformation



A detailed agrifood systems profile of Madagascar was officially handed over by FAO and CIRAD to government authorities in June. The profile relied on in-depth monitoring and analysis and was prepared with financial support from the European Union. The product of the collaborative partnership is a major step towards transformation of the country's agrifood system.

What's New

Publication:
Ten years of
FAO experience
on ending
child labour
in agriculture
in Africa



Publication:
The Investment
Guidelines
for Youth in
Agrifood
Systems in
Africa



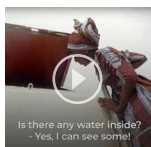
Publication:
Scaling up
investments
in agrifood
systems for
youth in Africa –
policy paper



Publication:
Hunger
Hotspots
report (FAO
and WFP)



Video:
One girl's search for
water in the Sahel



English



French

Video:
Empowering rural
women in Rwanda



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