



# IRAN AND FAO

## PARTNERING FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND SAFEGUARDING NATURAL RESOURCES

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has had a long lasting collaboration with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran since it joined FAO in 1953. The cooperation was strengthened with the re-opening of the country office in 1992, and over the years FAO has provided policy and technical assistance in promoting sustainable development of the country's agriculture and rural sectors. More recently, the interventions have been focused on policy advice, capacity building and planning to increase agricultural productivity and improvements to forestry. Another key area of cooperation is the development of sustainable small-scale agriculture based on agro-ecological and climate-smart approaches.

### Focus on development challenges

FAO's mission in Iran is to inspire and engage partners in promoting long lasting solutions for sustainable development, with a focus on:

- capacity building, policy and strategy development,
- food and nutrition security, and food safety,
- crop production,
- fisheries and aquaculture,
- disaster risk reduction,
- climate change and climate-smart agriculture.

### Capacity enhancement to control desert locust

As the country is experiencing the worst desert locust infestation in the last 50 years, FAO funds a project to enhance Iran's technical capacity for early warning, monitoring and management of this pest.

The project provides the Iranian Plant Protection managers and experts with the requisite knowledge, skills and equipment for monitoring, tracking, reporting on and rapidly responding to desert locust infestation in seven provinces of Khuzestan, Bushehr, Fars, Kerman, South Khrasan, Hormozgan, and Sistan and Baluchestan.

Strengthening the country's operational capacity to respond to this migratory pest, the project assists the government to procure necessary equipment for the Desert Locust control centres and to develop an advisory report on managing this pest for the national authorities.

### Supporting the sustainable development of marine cage culture

Due to climate change and sharp decline in precipitation in Iran and thereby shortage of available freshwater, marine cage culture has been a key priority for government to supply animal proteins, healthy food and alternative livelihood. In this regard, FAO recently started this project to achieve the long-term goals

### Matching FAO's expertise to Iran's development priorities

FAO assistance in Iran is shaped by the **FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, which is centred on four priority areas.

- Environmentally sustainable and climate-smart agriculture,
- Food and nutrition security and food safety,
- Inclusive and resilient rural development,
- Knowledge-based economy and society.

Jointly developed and signed with the Government under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad (MAJ), the CPF ensures cross-sectoral participation, thanks to the involvement of the Ministries of Health and Medical Education; Energy; Cooperative, Labour and Social Welfare as well as academic institutions and field and decentralized institutions and structures.

In addition to supporting FAO's Strategic Framework and regional priorities, the CPF is closely aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Iran and contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



including improvement in Iran's marine cage culture capacities and assists the country in crafting a national framework for marine cage culture development and management. In addition, the project offers hands-on trainings for farmers and local extension practitioners.

## Resilient enhancement of rural communities against climatic disasters

"Pro-growth and pro-poor policies, processes and institutions can help accelerate sustainable development."

FAO Director-General

Following the unprecedented damages of the 2019 Spring Floods in Iran, FAO funds a project to assist the country in enhancing the resilience of its agriculture system against climatic disasters.

The project focuses on providing provincial and local authorities in four provinces of Golestan,

Khouzestan, Lorestan, and Sistan and Baluchestan with the requisite knowledge and skills on climate-resilient irrigation, flood risk management, and soil protection to adequately manage soil and water resources.

## Supporting sustainable water resources management

During the past decades, demographic and socio-economic developments in northwestern Iran have led to a severe escalation of water scarcity in the region. This has put intense pressure on Urmia Lake the largest inland body of water in Iran - leading to an ecological crisis.

In this context, with generous financial support from the Government of Japan, FAO is implementing the "Integrated Programme for Sustainable Water Resources Management in the Urmia Lake Basin". By providing technical and strategic assistance, the project is contributing to more sustainable, productive and resilient agricultural and rural systems, with a positive impact on the environment in general and on the water balance of Urmia Lake.

## Rehabilitation of degraded land and soils that are prone to wind erosion

This project focuses on the main threats to land and forest resources in Iran by removing key barriers to Sustainable Land and Forest Management (SLFM).

The goal is to restore and enhance biodiversity and the capacity of degraded forest lands to provide for sustainable livelihoods, food and nutrition security and combat desertification. The project achieves this by: (i) strengthening local and national capacity to implement participatory integrated SLFM initiatives; (ii) adopting and implementing sustainable alternative livelihoods options; and (iii) mainstreaming these approaches into national plans, policies and processes.



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## Strengthening national readiness for climate financing

Through the "Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme" FAO supports Iran in strengthening its national capacities to develop, assess, finance and implement programmes and projects that aim to increase adaptation to climate change and mitigate its effects.

The programme includes the establishment of a functional coordination body within the government, which should improve the country's national climate change decision-making mechanisms.

## Building capacity toward sustainable intensification of oilseed crops

This project seeks to enhance Iran food security through vulnerability reduction concerning vegetable oil and associated protein feedstocks.

It supports national efforts to build capacity to harness and fine-tune innovations in sustainable oilseed crop production.

To integrate new technologies and conservation agriculture approaches into cereal-based systems in the country, the project provides mentoring and conducts training workshops for Iranian scientists and breeders. Furthermore, it will assist the country in acquiring elite oilseed crop germplasms as well as developing breeding populations adaptable to specific conditions in major growing agro-ecologies.

## Increasing water use productivity and strengthening water governance

As part of a regional initiative focused on water sustainability implemented in eight NENA countries, FAO assists Iran in the adoption of modern technologies and institutional solutions to increase the efficiency and productivity of water use in agriculture.

With the financial support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the project helps the country establishing a robust water accounting system, strengthening water-relevant institutions and adopting a Water-Food-Energy-Climate Nexus analytical framework to serve for policies revisions towards water sustainability, food security and climate-resilient systems.

The project also offers training for the farmers on applying practices to increase their income while reducing water consumption.

## CONTACT

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