Food and Agriculture Organization
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+
Turkey

Partnering for food security and sustainable management of natural resources









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Foreword by FAO Director-General

Since becoming a member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 1948, Turkey has remained a steadfast and committed partner in the global fight against hunger and malnutrition. Our partnership thrived with the establishment of the FAO Country Office in 1982 and the Subregional Office for Central Asia in 2007 in Ankara. Together, we have sought to find solutions to many of the most pressing problems of our time and to test new ways of delivering support to those who need it most. We are privileged to have the support of the people of Turkey as a long-term partner and friend.

Over the years, Turkey has benefited from wide-ranging assistance from FAO and has become an active and growing resource partner for the Organization, providing technical and financial support to FAO's activities, particularly in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Today, our cooperation continues to prosper through the implementation of the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programmes on Food and Agriculture and on Forestry, focusing on poverty reduction, agricultural and rural development, nutrition, food safety, animal and plant genetic resources, and the sustainable management of natural resources. This is further amplified by Turkey's role as an important partner for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, sharing and tailoring its knowledge and experience to the specific development priorities of countries in Central Asia, in support of food security and nutrition.

Another important aspect of our cooperation is our joint response to the Syrian crisis. Thanks to Turkey's commitment, we have reached vulnerable areas where resilience building and emergency response are crucial to address the impact of the crisis. We also contributed to the food security and livelihoods of millions of Syrian refugees and Turkish host communities, considered fundamental to create a sustainable context for long-lasting peace.



Furthermore, FAO commends Turkey's efforts to advance innovation and digital technologies in agriculture, as well as to sustainably reduce food loss and waste with the launch of the "Save your Food" campaign, in cooperation with FAO. The campaign, which seeks to combat food loss and waste both at the national and international level and create awareness of the issue, is making Turkey a role model for efforts in this regard.

As the year 2020 came to an end, the world continues to deal with the long term socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Decisive, coordinated and innovative action is now needed to face the emerging threats to food security and nutrition, and to improve resilience. This is why FAO together with its Members, including Turkey, is planning to accelerate agricultural transformation for sustainable rural development in the COVID-19 context and beyond, particularly for women and young people.

I strongly believe that, with our goals closely aligned and with a focus on country ownership, efficiency and increased impact through its flagship Hand-in-Hand Initiative, the renewed FAO is ready to strengthen this cooperation even further for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life.

QU Dongyu
FAO Director-General

Foreword by Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey

FAO-Turkey relations date back over 70 years. During this time, FAO and Turkey have worked in close cooperation and implemented various joint studies and projects in the areas of food security, agriculture and forestry. This cooperation was further enhanced by the signing of a host country agreement between Turkey and FAO in 2006, which established the Subregional Office for Central Asia (SEC) in Ankara. While formerly a recipient of FAO's technical assistance, today Turkey is an active provider of financial and technical resources for the implementation of various projects and programmes not only in Turkey but also in Central Asia, the Caucasus and beyond.

With the aim of increasing food security and eliminating poverty in the region and the world, Turkey contributes to ongoing international efforts through knowledge and experience transfers to other countries. To this end, the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme on Food and Agriculture (FTPP) and the FAO-Turkey Forestry Partnership Programme (FTFP), two programmes financed by the Government of Turkey, provide assistance in the areas of food security and safety, nutrition, rural development, the protection and management of natural resources, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, and in the development of technical capacities and human resources.

In addition to the FTPP and FTFP, Turkey and FAO are conducting significant joint activities to address the challenges of climate change, to enhance biodiversity and to combat desertification. Another significant area of FAO-Turkey collaboration is a series of projects aiming to enhance the livelihood opportunities and resilience of Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP).



Among many of our joint activities, we attach particular importance to the recent regional project on reducing food loss and waste in SEC countries. To increase the impact of the project, we have joined with FAO to launch the "Save Your Food" media campaign, which we consider a significant step towards reducing food loss and waste and increasing awareness of this problem in the region.

This valuable report provides in-depth information on our joint efforts and ongoing and future projects implemented through cooperation between Turkey and FAO. I believe that our long-term cooperation will be further enhanced through joint activities in the upcoming period, and I hope that the readers of this report will learn more about the FAO and Turkey partnership. I would like to thank all those who made a contribution to the development of this report.

Dr. Bekir Pakdemirli

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Abbreviations

AAD	Action Against Desertification
BRIDGES	Boosting Restoration, Income, Development, Generating Ecosystem Services
BSEC	Black Sea Economic Cooperation
CA	conservation agriculture
CACFish	Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission
CCA	Caucasus and Central Asia
CPF	Country Programming Framework
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO-RCC	Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FISHDEV	Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
FTFP	FAO-Turkey Forestry Partnership Programme
FTPP	FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme on Food and Agriculture
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IUU	Illegal, unreported, and unregulated
IYP	International Year of Pulses
PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
RPFS	Regional Programme for Food Security
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEC	Subregional Office for Central Asia
SSTC	South-South and triangular cooperation
SuTP	Syrians under Temporary Protection
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WHO	World Health Organization

Partnership at a glance

FAO and Turkey have enjoyed a solid partnership since the country joined the Organization in 1948 and the establishment of the country office in 1981. In 2006, a host country agreement was signed between FAO and Turkey, further expanding the Organization's presence with the formation of the SEC in Ankara, which has enhanced FAO's ability to respond to national needs as well as regional priorities.

Turkey has benefited from wide-ranging assistance from FAO and other partners, shaped by the FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF). The most recent CPF, covering the 2016–2020 period, is centered around three main priorities, including **food and nutrition security and food safety; sustainable forest and natural resources management, including fisheries; and institutional capacity enhancement of public and private sectors**. What is more, since 2017, FAO has been implementing the Syrian Refugee Resilience Plan in Turkey. Between 2017 and 2020, with funding from Japan and the UNHCR, FAO has carried out six projects in partnership with Turkish institutions, including one funded through FAO's Regular Programme budget. By working closely with Turkish authorities, the most recent 2019–2020 phase of the Plan works to enhance the resilience of more than 60 000 SuTP and host community households affected by the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. In addition, a larger-scale intervention funded by the European Union's Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis began at the end of 2019. FAO also works with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to improve the country's biodiversity and mitigate land degradation and the effects of climate change.

Over the years, Turkey has also become an active resource partner, providing indispensable technical and financial support to the Organization's activities, particularly within the Central Asian subregion. In the years 2009–2020*, Turkey contributed more than USD 75 million to the Organization's work. Most of these contributions were directed towards making agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable (49 percent), followed by initiatives to enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems (24 percent). Moreover, the majority of Turkey-funded projects supported vulnerable populations in Europe and Central Asia (71 percent), followed by interregional projects (29 percent).

* Throughout this report, figures for 2020 refer to preliminary closure as of December 2020.

Turkey has also become one of the largest non-European Union donors for FAO activities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, with contributions of around USD 30 million since 2006. The cooperation between FAO and Turkey is guided by two partnership programmes with the Turkish Government, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry — namely the FTPP and the FTFP. The FTPP was established as a result of the host country agreement, with the Government of Turkey contributing USD 10 million for 28 projects over a five-year period, covering areas such as food security and nutrition, agricultural and rural development, natural resource management, agricultural policies and food safety. In 2014, Turkey and FAO entered into a second phase of the partnership with a supplemental agreement under which Turkey committed to contributing an additional USD 20 million. Half of this amount was allocated to food and agriculture projects through the second phase of the FTPP (the FTPP II), and half to the FTFP to cover areas related to sustainable forest management and governance.

Turkey is also an important partner for South-South and triangular Cooperation (SSTC), as it has been sharing and tailoring its knowledge and experiences to the specific development priorities of countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA). In line with this, Turkey and FAO are now exploring opportunities to strengthen the partnership in the framework of SSTC.

FAO greatly values Turkey's willingness to work with and through the Organization in a variety of ways, which is also mirrored in the country's continuous support through its human capital, including the secondment of Turkish experts to FAO. This makes FAO a strong partner in disseminating Turkey's rich know-how and technologies in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the years to come, and particularly during the COVID-19 recovery period, FAO and Turkey will continue to work around common priorities to address current and emerging global challenges, supporting the fight against hunger in times of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, while realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Joint action on COVID-19: Boosting food security and safety for all

The COVID-19 pandemic is compounding existing global challenges, jeopardizing human health and disrupting the food systems that are the foundations of health. If we do not act, the world may face a global food emergency of a severity and scale unseen for more than half a century. FAO and its Member States have recently started working together on a speedy, decisive, coordinated and innovative response to the impacts of the pandemic on peoples' lives and livelihoods, global food trade, markets, food supply chains and livestock.

In the coming years, FAO's holistic COVID-19 response will focus on seven key priority areas:

1. data for decision-making;
2. economic inclusion and social protection to reduce poverty;
3. trade and food safety standards;
4. boosting smallholder resilience for recovery;
5. preventing the next zoonotic pandemic;
6. food systems transformation; and
7. global humanitarian response plan.

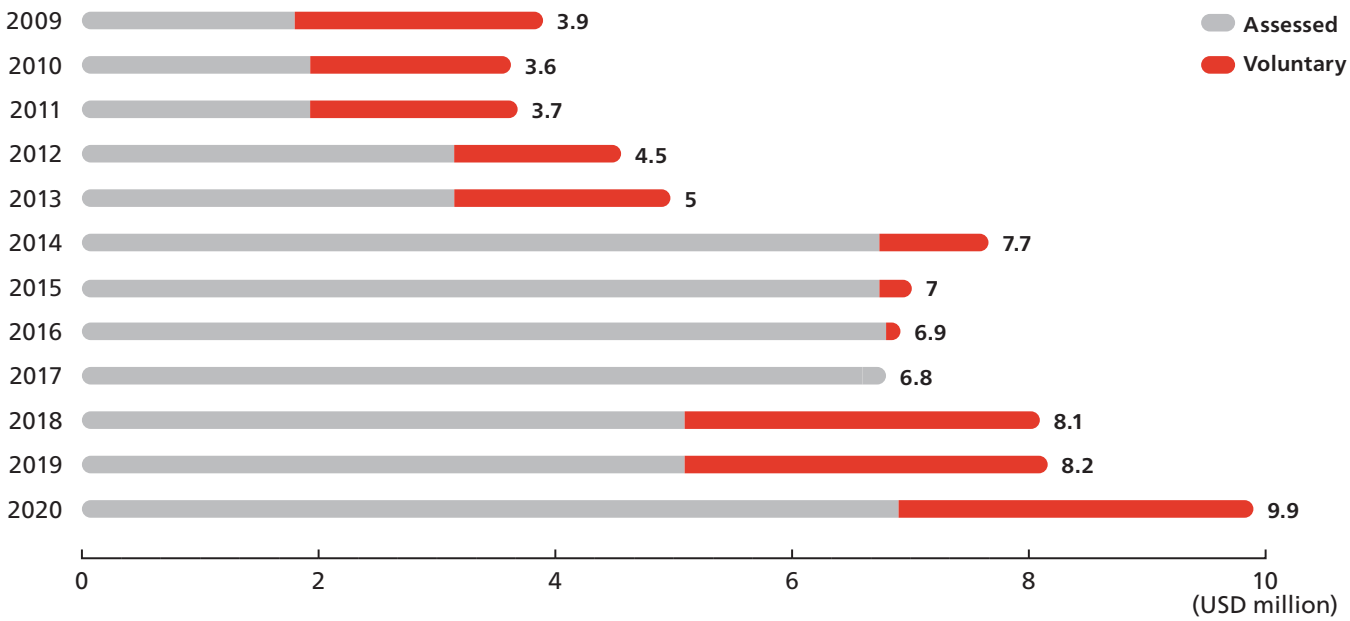
This comprehensive programme is being designed to proactively and sustainably address the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, while providing uninterrupted and long-term support to countries in the pursuit of the SDGs.

In figures

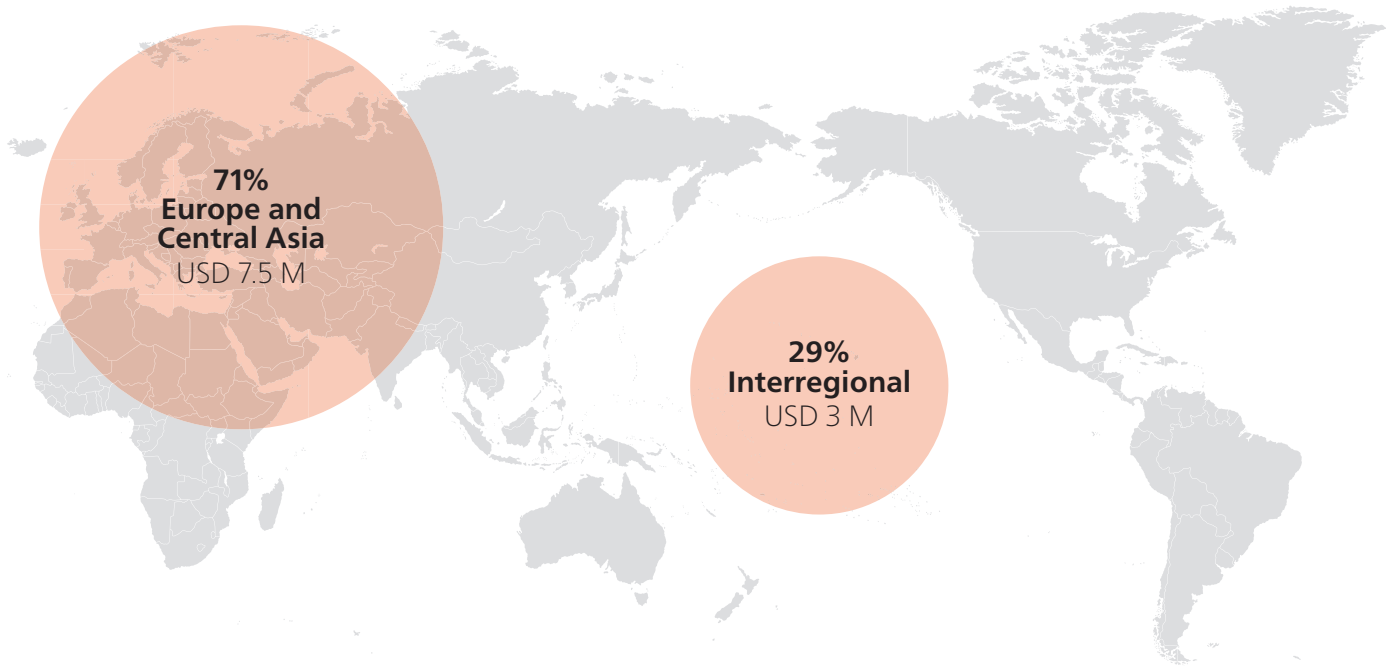
Total Turkish contributions to FAO (assessed* and voluntary) 2009–2020:**

USD 75.3 million

Trend of contributions (2009–2020)



Turkish contributions by region (2014–2020)**



Turkish contributions by category (2014–2020)**



Turkish contributions by FAO's areas of work (2014–2020)**

49% Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable



24% Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems



16% Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises



8% Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition



3% Reduce rural poverty



* Members' assessed contributions comprise the regular budget set at the biennial FAO Conference.

** Refers to voluntary contributions based on approvals, excluding those provided to Multilateral/Pooled Trust Funds. Voluntary contributions are provided by Members and other partners on a voluntary basis to support governments for clearly defined purposes linked to the results framework, as well as direct support to FAO's core work.

Timeline of significant events

13 September 1981

Opening of the FAO-Turkey country office in Ankara.

13–22 October 1997

XI World Forestry Congress held in Antalya, Turkey.

4 August 2006

Signing of host country agreement to expand FAO's presence with the formation of the Subregional Office in Ankara, enhancing FAO's ability to respond to the priority needs of the countries in the subregion.

November 2012

Establishment of the Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security (ECO-RCC), with the aim of enhancing cooperation, knowledge sharing and information exchange among Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Member States in the area of food security.

16 October 2006

Establishment of the FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia in Ankara.

4 August 2006

Establishment of the first FTPP, with a view to supporting food and nutrition security, food safety, agriculture, and rural development.

7 September 2013

The United Nations declares 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP) upon Turkey's initiative, with Turkey and Pakistan elected as co-chairs of the IYP.

4 June 2014

Signing of the supplemental agreement that launched the FTPP II.

4 June 2014

Establishment of the FTFP, with a view to supporting global forestry issues.

May 2015

Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste established by FAO and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Turkey under its G20 presidency.

12–23 October 2015

Turkey hosted the 12th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Ankara.

25 April 2016

Turkey inaugurates the International Horticultural Exposition on the theme of "Greening the Future" with high-level participation of FAO.

3 July 2017

Launch of the FTPP II in Rome with a special photo exhibition.

23–24 May 2016

The first-ever World Humanitarian Summit held in Turkey, with the vision of reforming and rejuvenating the global humanitarian system.

4–6 May 2016

Thirtieth FAO Regional Conference for Europe hosted by Turkey to debate on the SDGs and their implications for agriculture and rural development in Europe and Central Asia and to discuss FAO's priorities in the region.

16–10 July 2018

Launch of the FTFP with a side event in Rome on the occasion of the 24th session of the Committee of Forestry, and 6th World Forestry Week.

15–18 October 2018

Sixth session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) held in Turkey. The country hosts the Secretariat and contributes to its annual budget.

29 April 2019

FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey organize the launch event for the joint publication titled "Biodiversity of Turkey: Contribution of Genetic Resources to Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems".

20 May 2020

FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey launch a joint national media campaign entitled "Save Your Food" to raise public awareness about the detrimental impacts of food loss and waste and to stimulate action along the food supply chain.

25–29 November 2019

Turkey hosted the 24th Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission in Antalya.

17 June 2019

Turkey hosts the World Day to Combat Desertification.



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Improving food security and inclusive rural development in the Caucasus and Central Asia

Food security in the CCA has improved substantially over the past two decades. However, many countries in the region continue to experience a relatively high prevalence of various forms of malnutrition. Stunted growth in children and rising rates of obesity are both a serious concern for every country in the region. With levels of prosperity as diverse as the cultures, climates and landscapes, a 'one-size-fits-all' approach does not apply to this dynamic part of the world.

FAO and its partners, including Turkey, aim to ensure that the agricultural development of the region is people-centered and ultimately leads to improved access, availability and consumption of healthy foods for better nutrition. This includes making sure that agricultural supply chains and the communities they serve in the region are productive, sustainable and resilient. The Organization supports the transformation of agrifood systems into systems that are more productive, more inclusive of poor and marginalized populations, environmentally sustainable and resilient, and able to deliver healthy and nutritious diets to all.

Together, FAO and Turkey work to support inclusive economic growth around agriculture, especially for women and young people. Working regionally and nationally, both the Organization and the country help create inclusive enabling environments in which businesses can thrive, and in which all of society can sustainably share in the benefits of economic growth.

Boosting cooperation and knowledge sharing: The Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security

Contribution:
USD 500 000

Beneficiaries:
ECO Member States

Location:
Central Asia

Duration:
2013–2019

Results:

A comprehensive analysis of the food security situation in ECO Member Countries conducted;

"Overview of food security in the countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization" published;

Workshops and steering committee meetings conducted to discuss common food security operational and policy issues and solidify plans for future ECO-RCC activities.

Contribution to the SDGs:



The ECO-RCC — funded by Turkey under the FTPP — was established in 2012 in Ankara, as a regional coordination centre for the implementation of the ECO/FAO Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS). In its role of facilitating the development and implementation of projects under the Programme, ECO-RCC seeks to enhance cooperation, knowledge sharing and information exchange among ECO Member States in the area of food security.

Under a multi-year project funded by Turkey in support of the ECO-RCC, FAO provided technical assistance in the collection and analysis of data and indicators on the status of food security in ECO countries — including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. As a result, a publication entitled "Overview of food security in the countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization" was produced. The publication highlighted the characteristics of food security, its trends and challenges, and provided timely recommendations for changes to the RPFS (initially developed in 2008). The publication brought together the latest and most reliable data to provide the most up-to-date food security overview of the ECO region. It will be updated in 2020 to monitor the progress made towards achieving Zero Hunger goals, fully in line with the framework of the SDGs. During the project period, steering committee meetings and meetings of senior officials provided fora to discuss operational and policy issues that were critical in addressing common food security challenges in the region, and to solidify roadmaps for future ECO-RCC activities.

A follow-up project funded by the FTPP II will support the transformation of ECO-RCC from a programme-based organization to a self-sustaining institution within ECO.

Improving food security, food safety and living standards of vulnerable populations in Tajikistan, through effective and sustainable control of brucellosis in animals and humans

Contribution:
USD 180 000

Beneficiaries:
Smallholder livestock owners and veterinary service specialists

Location:
Tajikistan

Duration:
2012–2014

Results:

Livelihoods protected through the vaccination of 648 489 sheep and goats (across 3 vaccination campaigns);

Cost-recovery scheme for the vaccination services implemented;

Serological survey to determine prevalence rates conducted;

Brucellosis reduced by 0.2% in the project's targeted districts;

Human brucellosis continually reduced (from 208 cases in late 2012 to 185 in late 2013);

Capacity of State Veterinary Inspection Service, its regional units and local authorities enhanced.

Contribution to the SDGs:



Following an alarming rise in the incidence of human brucellosis in the late 1990s in Tajikistan, the Government launched a concerted effort to control the disease through increased livestock vaccination. With support from various donors, the Tajik National Brucellosis Control Programme proved largely successful, yet more resources were required to sustain control activities in the long term. There was a need, therefore, to find other options to make these activities sustainable after the completion of projects. A 2009 survey found that local populations may have been able to afford sharing the costs of veterinary services, leading to the proposed development of a cost-sharing system to be marketed to local farmers and smallholders.

Thanks to contributions from Turkey, the cost-sharing system — initially piloted in the Kulyab subregion of the Khatlon region in Tajikistan — was extended to the Rasht valley, where brucellosis control efforts had been ongoing since 2004. The FAO project conducted a widespread public awareness-raising and education campaign about the disease, and the need for vaccination and shared payment of vaccination services to ensure the sustainability of the programme. Vaccines, laboratory equipment and other essential materials were provided in selected pilot districts, facilitating the vaccination of all sheep and goats with the Rev. 1 vaccine in seven districts of the Rasht valley and the city of Nurek — a total of 648 489 heads of livestock. Serological monitoring was conducted during the project's final year to compare the status of brucellosis prevalence in vaccinated and non-vaccinated districts of Tajikistan.

An analysis of the results showed that while prevalence remains high in much of the country, these rates did in fact decline during the life of the project (by 0.2 percent in the targeted districts), and the incidence of human brucellosis also continued to decline. By decreasing the prevalence of brucellosis, the project made positive contributions towards the health of rural populations in the targeted areas of Tajikistan, facilitated safer working conditions for specialists, resulting in the provision of better services, and consequently, improving the productivity of livestock production.

Strengthening the capacities of rural women on the socio-economic and gender aspects of sustainable rural development

Contribution:
USD 320 657

Beneficiaries:
75 rural women and 69 extension agents and rural advisers

Location:
Central Asia

Duration:
2013–2016

Results:

30 women in Turkey trained on entrepreneurship, marketing and product development;

45 women in Azerbaijan trained on livestock production and small-scale processing of dairy products;

69 extension agents and rural advisers trained on designing and delivering gender-sensitive rural advisory services.

Contribution to the SDGs:



Agriculture plays an important role in the economy and rural society of Turkey and Azerbaijan, and a high percentage of women are employed in agriculture in both countries. In rural areas, however, a large share of the female labour force carries out unpaid family labour, in the form of assisting farm holder spouses. These rural women often have a low level of education and are unskilled, which significantly limits their chances to contribute to improved rural livelihoods and household food security. The project supported the countries to enhance their gender-sensitive services to effectively respond to the specific needs of women farmers.

In 2013, Turkey contributed toward a FAO project aimed at exploring sustainable ways of addressing rural women's challenges in agriculture, and the rural sector in general, in Turkey and Azerbaijan. In selected pilot provinces of each country, 75 women attended training courses designed to give them skills and knowledge tailored to their specific needs to enable them to improve their income-generating opportunities. In Turkey, 30 women were trained on entrepreneurship, marketing and product development, while in Azerbaijan, 45 women were trained on small-scale dairy production and processing.

A second project component emphasised developing the skills of agricultural extension and rural advisory workers in providing services to rural women. National extension and advisory staff (33 in Turkey and 36 in Azerbaijan) were introduced to effective training methods, assessing and responding to farmer demand, gender analysis tools and impact evaluation. Upon the conclusion of the project, two evaluations of the training found that all trainees had successfully put into practice the knowledge and tools that they had acquired during their respective courses. In addition, a publication highlighting the project's activities and results was developed and disseminated.



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Developing home-based nursery for improved food security and environmental protection in Tajikistan

Contribution:
USD 200 000

Beneficiaries:
232 vulnerable households (132 women-headed)

Location:
Tajikistan

Duration:
2010–2011

Results:

A total of 232 home-based nurseries established;

A total of 197 000 grafts and 518.5 kg seeds distributed for use at home-based nurseries;

Technical assistance on soil preparation, planting and growing of forestry and fruit tree seeds provided to nursery beneficiaries;

Multipurpose tree plantations established by planting seedlings of forest tree, fruit tree and fast-growing tree species (2 150 apricot seedlings, 700 cherry, 1 150 nut, 1 900 oleaster, 1 700 acacia and 1 600 poplar);

23 on-the-job training sessions conducted on grafting fruit tree seedlings.

Contribution to the SDGs:



Agriculture remains one of the key industries in Tajikistan, accounting for over 60 percent of the country's employment and nearly 30 percent of its gross domestic product. Yet Tajikistan continues to face problems of low productivity in both the crop and livestock sectors, due to a lack of access to good quality inputs (seed, fertilizer, finance, credit, etc.), a lack of irrigation and low levels of precipitation in rainfed areas, droughts, and a lack of extension services and knowledge of best agricultural practices. In addition, about 90 percent of Tajikistan's agricultural land is prone to various types of erosion, degrading the land's productive potential.

With support from Turkey, FAO implemented a project to increase incomes and enhance livelihoods and food security in rural Tajikistan by establishing home-based nurseries, diversifying and increasing the areas of tree plantations, conserving soil and water resources, and restoring forest and woodland ecosystems. The project established 232 home-based nurseries to increase incomes and improve the livelihoods of the most vulnerable (particularly women-headed) households. Participating households received forestry and fruit tree seeds and grafts for use in their nurseries, as well as technical assistance on soil preparation and the planting and growing of their seeds/grafts. Multipurpose tree plantations were established in the targeted villages — through the provision of seedlings — to improve environmental conditions, conserve soil and water, and produce fruit, wood and other products to increase food security and incomes. Extensive training was conducted for beneficiary households to provide adequate knowledge and experience for the establishment of home-based nurseries and protective plantations. Topics included seedling growing and production skills, grafting, weeding, irrigation, and marketing. A study tour to Turkey for selected participants was carried out to improve knowledge and practice in nursery development to encourage its further implementation in Tajikistan.



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Fostering sustainable natural resource management

The world's population is expected to grow to 9.7 billion by 2050. It is therefore essential to promote integrated natural resource management systems that reduce the ecological footprint of our growing population. Healthy forests, soils, streams and oceans — and the genetic diversity that such ecosystems produce — are essential to sustaining life.

Progress has often come with social and environmental costs, including water scarcity, soil degradation, ecosystem stress, biodiversity loss, decreasing fish stocks and forest cover, and high levels of greenhouse gas emissions. The productive potential of our natural resources base has been damaged in many places around the globe, compromising the future fertility of the planet. The impact of climate change, meanwhile, continually reduces the capacity of these ecosystems to sustain the world's rising food demands. The interlinkage of food security and climate change needs to be addressed simultaneously, increasing resource efficiency in agriculture and building resilience to climate risks — key actions straddling both realms. Reducing waste of resources such as water, curbing deforestation and overfishing, improving soil health and stopping desertification also go hand in hand with efforts to prepare for climate-related shocks.

By working together, FAO and Turkey are promoting a more sustainable and efficient use of resources, benefiting both productivity and food security. FAO, with the support of partners like Turkey, invests in monitoring and protecting valuable natural resources, supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation, enhancing essential ecosystem services, and improving human health and biodiversity conservation to ensure communities and food systems are resilient. This includes building the knowledge and skills of governments and farmers, leveraging advances in science and technology, and providing access to hardy, efficient and nutritious varieties of crops, trees and animal breeds.

BRIDGES — Boosting Restoration, Income, Development, Generating Ecosystem Services

Contribution:
USD 3 million

Beneficiaries:
Small-scale farmers, rural communities, community-based green business, practitioners and-policy-makers

Location:
Eritrea, Mauritania and Sudan

Duration:
2018–2022

Results so far:

Assessments to establish biophysical and socioeconomic baselines in targeted villages conducted;

Sudan: 3 000 kg native seed species mobilized; 250 000 seedlings produced; 4 village nurseries established for additional seedling production; 1 756 ha of degraded lands for restoration prepared and planted; improved seeds planted in mechanised prepared lands for 584 farming households in 14 villages;

Mauritania: 1 300 ha of degraded lands planted in 7 villages.

Contribution to the SDGs:



Desertification and land degradation are very serious challenges, leading to hunger, poverty, unemployment, and forced migration and conflict, while exacerbating climate risks, such as drought and floods.

Under the FTFP, FAO is working to support Eritrea, Mauritania and the Sudan as they fight land degradation and desertification through the sustainable management of their natural resources and the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes. With USD 3 million from Turkey, FAO is implementing Boosting Restoration, Income, Development, Generating Ecosystem Services (BRIDGES) — a project that contributes to Africa's Great Green Wall initiative and will work in synergy with the Action Against Desertification (AAD) initiative.

Through its four components, the project aims to restore 5 000 ha of dryland forests and landscapes, reinforce value chains of non-wood forest products (i.e. gums, resins, fodder, livestock products and food products from trees), build Great Green Wall information and monitoring systems in the targeted countries, compile, manage, share knowledge and good practices, and promote communications and visibility across Africa's Great Green Wall.

Since 2019, the project has made important progress in all three targeted countries. Technical training sessions were conducted for participants from the three countries on the AAD approach to large-scale restoration, and on biophysical data collection using the for 18 geographic information system experts. In the Sudan and Mauritania, biophysical and socioeconomic assessments were conducted in targeted areas to establish a baseline against which to compare the results of the project's interventions. Land restoration activities also began in 2019 and cover 3 056 ha of degraded lands planted with mixed resilient species. In the Sudan, 3 000 kg of native seed species were mobilized for planting, 250 000 acacia and other shade tree seedlings were produced and planted, and four village nurseries were established for additional seedling production. In addition, 1 756 ha of degraded lands were planted for restoration in 14 villages. To support crop production in the agroforestry systems, the project provided more than 8 200 kg of improved seeds to 584 farming households. In Mauritania, in seven villages, 1 100 ha of degraded lands were planted (including fencing) in 2020, with a further 300 ha planted in 2019. Finally, multiple regional workshops helped foster an understanding of potential opportunities for synergies between AAD, BRIDGES and other regional restoration projects.



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Building capacity for sustainable management of mountain watersheds in the Caucasus and Central Asia

Contribution:
USD 300 000

Beneficiaries:
Senior and technical-level staff of forestry and land administrations, government staff and local communities

Location:
Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Duration:
2012–2015

Results:

4 international training courses organized and 1 field excursion to review existing watershed management experiences/ guidelines and review/identify needs in project countries;

3 regional workshops/ training sessions delivered for 110 participants on modern techniques of watershed rehabilitation;

1 integrated participatory watershed rehabilitation plan for Kyrgyzstan prepared.

Contribution to the SDGs:



Watershed areas in the CCA are faced with severe problems of degradation caused by climate change and overuse of natural resources. This leads to a loss of soil, water and biodiversity resources, and to the deterioration of the food security and livelihoods of local communities, as well as the people living downstream, who are heavily dependent on the main rivers and streams fed by the mountain areas.

Through a Turkey-funded regional project, FAO sought to implement a watershed management approach to create synergies for sustainable land and water conservation, and to improve the use of resources. To increase the awareness, knowledge and capacity of decision-makers and selected specialists, three regional workshops and practical training courses were organized in Turkey and Kyrgyzstan on integrated participatory watershed rehabilitation and management, nursery development, seed and seedling production, and arid and semi-arid afforestation techniques.

An integrated participatory watershed rehabilitation plan was developed for a micro-catchment in Kyrgyzstan, which was the project's selected pilot country. The plan laid out a series of demonstrative interventions which were subsequently implemented in the Cholok Kaindy micro-catchment, including pasture improvement, slope stabilization, gully stabilization and afforestation. Activities aimed at improving the livelihoods of people living in the pilot areas included the development of irrigation and drinking water systems, fast-growing tree and agroforestry plantations, horticulture, fodder production and processing, beekeeping and the marketing of village products.

A number of publications were developed and disseminated to create awareness and build capacity for activities related to the project, including "Capacity-building for sustainable management of mountain watersheds in Central Asia and the Caucasus", "Participatory planning of micro-catchment level watershed development projects" and "Technical guidelines for natural resources rehabilitation works in mountain watersheds".



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Strengthening the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Central Asia

Contribution:
USD 1.8 million

Beneficiaries:
National authorities, fisherfolks, and fisheries and aquaculture professionals

Location:
Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan

Duration:
2009–2014

Results:

Regional initiative leading to the establishment of CACFish launched;

Comparative organizational fisheries structures analysed and assessed;

Regional fisheries education and training programme formulated;

30+ regional workshops, 12 study tours and 15 practical training events organized;

Establishment and strengthening of fishers' organizations supported;

600+ aquaculture professionals trained on application of modern technologies and management practices.

Contribution to the SDGs:



With contributions over five years, Turkey provided assistance to the Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (FISHDEV). The programme focused on the fisheries and aquaculture sector, in which fisheries production and the availability of fish for consumption had decreased significantly in the decade preceding the project. Causes for the collapse in capture fisheries and aquaculture production included a mix of institutional, political, economic, social and technical factors. The programme aimed to increase the performance of the Central Asian fisheries and aquaculture sector in terms of its capacity to generate food, employment and income, as well as in terms of its economic viability, environmental compatibility and social acceptability.

Under the Turkey-funded project, FAO carried out a series of activities designed to build institutional capacity within the targeted countries. It also assisted participating countries to become acquainted with better management practices in inland fisheries and aquaculture, delivering ad hoc training and workshops in subjects such as fish health and diseases, lake management, culture-based fisheries, and the protection and conservation of fisheries resources.

The programme also supported the establishment of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) — a regional fisheries management organization that ensured the sustainability of regional collaboration and provided a mechanism for enhancing the exchange of information and mutual support in the management and development of the sector. National institutional capacity to develop inland fisheries and aquaculture in a planned and strategic manner was enhanced through the provision of assistance to the development and updating of national policies and strategies.

In addition, technical advice was provided to national authorities on the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources, and legislative and institutional structures. Importantly, the project also brought together the partner countries at sessions and meetings of international fisheries platforms, namely the Committee on Fisheries — a subsidiary body of the FAO Council — and its subcommittees, thus contributing to partners' familiarization with international and global fisheries issues.



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Advancing conservation agriculture and resource conserving technologies for irrigated areas

Contribution:
USD 600 000

Beneficiaries:
Farmers, local authorities and policy-makers

Location:
Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Duration:
2012–2013

Results:

Permanent bed planting technologies tested, resulting in higher yields and improved water efficiency;

12 field days organized, for 578 farmers and local authorities' representatives;

CA training courses conducted for 540 participants;

New crop rotations identified and potential impact of their use in CA analysed;

Areas irrigated under CA in target countries expanded (to 2 050 ha in Uzbekistan, 1 800 ha in Azerbaijan and 1 100 ha in Kazakhstan as of 2013);

15 scientific papers produced and published, based on project results.

Contribution to the SDGs:



The degradation of soil resources as a result of poor agricultural land management is widespread in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and it is a leading factor in the suboptimal output and low efficiency of resources. Degradation also poses a direct threat to the sustainability of agricultural production. Changes to the soil and landscape management concepts and practices adopted in these countries is vital in order to enhance the sustainability of productivity and ecosystem services.

In response, Turkey provided financial support to an FAO project aimed at increasing the productivity of irrigated farming systems through the implementation of Conservation Agriculture (CA) technologies, while reducing production costs by investing in new machinery and improving the profitability of farming. In each of the project countries, demonstration sites were established on private farms to introduce CA practices within commercial-scale farming operations. No-till and bed planting cultivation was carried out on wheat, barley, sunflower, mung bean, soybean, kidney bean, alfalfa, maize and sorghum, with encouraging results. In Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, these technologies provided similar or higher crop yields while saving on considerable resources such as fuel, water, seeds and labour. Other demonstrated practices included crop rotation and diversification, laser land-levelling, water saving technologies and residue retention.

In addition, the confidence of farmers, policy-makers and other stakeholders in these practices was raised through field days and formal training courses. A cost-benefit analysis revealed that many of the technologies developed and disseminated as part of the project had a considerable advantage over those commonly practiced previously by farmers in Central Asian countries. Ultimately, the project results provided compelling evidence that farmers and policy-makers would be well advised to adopt CA in their respective countries.

Strong collaboration towards sustainable natural resource management under the Global Environment Facility framework

The FAO-GEF partnership is widely recognized today as a leader in addressing the critical nexus between the environment and agriculture. This unique partnership has been instrumental in supporting countries in their efforts to achieve national development objectives and meet the SDGs. In Turkey, the partnership has resulted in more than 11 projects implemented by FAO since 2013, contributing to national efforts in response to the dual challenge of ensuring the entire country has access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food, and is capable of combating land degradation and coping with the impacts of a changing climate.

FAO projects funded by GEF have enhanced biodiversity for food and nutrition security and, in doing so, have improved the well-being and livelihoods of Turkish communities through the conservation and sustainable use of local agrobiodiversity and the identification of best practices for upscaling. Activities in this context have been well integrated into Turkey's Strategy on Agriculture 2013–2017, as well as the Agricultural Research Master Plan 2016–2020, which encourages research activities on agricultural biological diversity related to traditional knowledge having value for nutrition, food security and safety, as well as agricultural production.

FAO and GEF have also joined efforts in responding to the challenges of climate change, the threat of desertification and the degradation of fertile soil in the country. Through the regional project "Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) II", FAO is supporting Central Asian countries and Turkey to widely disseminate and scale up the best technologies and approaches of integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes, in order to minimize pressure and harm on natural resources. The project aims to reduce risks and vulnerability while enhancing the capacity of rural communities to cope with and adapt to drought and salinity. At a regional level, GEF funds have enabled FAO to help the Central Asia region and Turkey to reduce the release of persistent organic pollutants from obsolete pesticide stockpiles and to strengthen capacity, as well as institutional and regulatory frameworks for sound pesticide management.

Other areas of current FAO-GEF collaboration leading to improved rural livelihoods across the country include: the promotion of sustainable land management and climate-friendly agriculture in the Konya Basin (2015–2020); the conservation and sustainable management of Turkey's steppe ecosystems (2014–2022) — a major acheivement of the FAO Forestry Programme; and support to the implementation of the land degradation neutrality approach at national level (2017–2023).



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Strengthening national capacities for sustainable agriculture

Agriculture — encompassing crops, livestock, aquaculture, fisheries and forests — is the world's biggest employer and largest economic sector for many countries. It is also the main source of food and income for the extremely poor. Food and agriculture stand today at a crossroads. Looking back, major improvements in agricultural productivity have been recorded over recent decades to satisfy the food demand of a growing global population. However, millions of people still go hungry every day, reflecting a food system that is out of balance. As the prime connection between people and the planet, food and agriculture can deliver inclusive growth to countries and drive positive change across the entire 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Properly nourished children can learn, people can lead healthy and productive lives and societies can prosper. By nurturing our land and adopting sustainable agriculture, present and future generations will be able to feed a growing population.

FAO works to mainstream sustainability into national development strategies and action plans, by assisting countries in creating or implementing policies, investment programmes and governance mechanisms related to sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The Organization has developed a common vision and an integrated approach to sustainability across the three sectors. This unified perspective — taking into account social, economic and environmental considerations — ensures the effectiveness of action on the ground. It is underpinned by knowledge based on the best available science, and it is adapted at community and country levels to ensure local relevance and applicability.

Turkey supports FAO in building the institutional and technical capacity of Central Asian countries to improve agricultural practices and increase the sustainability and resilience of the sector. By identifying needs within countries for legal, institutional and technical capacity building in pest and pesticide management, improving livestock productivity and management by establishing producer associations for training and service delivery, enabling access to better feeds and technology, and safeguarding the food security and livelihoods of rural populations by preventing, controlling and limiting the threats posed by locusts to crops and rangelands, Turkey and FAO work across the agricultural sector to increase productivity, ensure the improvement of livelihoods and foster inclusive economic growth.

Towards better national and regional locust management in the Caucasus and Central Asia

Contribution:
USD 600 000

Beneficiaries:
Rural population and government personnel

Location:
Central Asia

Duration:
2012–2019

Results:

2 postgraduate fellowships awarded following the assessment of candidates by an e-committee (comprised of locust experts from CCA and FAO specialists);

6 technical training sessions conducted and equipment distributed to support locust monitoring, assessment missions and data management in Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan;

Technical assistance and equipment provided to Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan for impact monitoring of locust control operations on human health and the environment;

Coordination and implementation of broader regional locust management plan facilitated.

Contribution to the SDGs:



The CCA are periodically plagued by the Moroccan Locust, the Italian Locust and the Migratory Locust. During outbreaks and upsurges, rangelands and crops suffer extensive damage, compromising the food security and livelihoods of rural populations.

With support from Turkey, FAO implemented a seven-year project to improve national capacities in Central Asian countries to prevent, control and limit the threats posed by locusts to crops and rangelands, as well as the regional coordination of these locust management efforts. The project was implemented as a component of a broader multidonor funded, interregional programme aimed at addressing both the immediate and long-term requirements for national capacity development and responding to the changing needs of countries for the development of an effective regional locust management strategy.

As a means of developing the long-term locust management capacities of participating countries, the project provided funding for postgraduate studies. Throughout the course of the project, multiple students completed or advanced their degrees in various locust control and/or monitoring topics. National capacities in locust survey and control operations that are sensitive to human health and environmental issues were addressed through the provision of technical assistance and appropriate equipment. The project supported various national training sessions covering contemporary methods in locust monitoring to better anticipate and mitigate locust disasters, as well as impact monitoring of locust control operations on human health and the environment.

Supporting pesticides and pest management in Central Asia and Turkey

Contributions:
USD 450 000

Beneficiaries:
Ministries involved in obsolete pesticide management

Location:
Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Duration:
2010–2013

Results:

Ministry staff trained on inventory management and the Pesticide Stock Management System;

Inventory of obsolete pesticides in selected countries finalized;

Inventory data analysed and uploaded into Pesticide Stock Management System;

Gap analysis related to pesticide management throughout the project's life cycle completed.

Contribution to the SDGs:



The problem of pesticides and obsolete pesticide management in Turkey and Central Asian countries has existed for many years. Despite the efforts of the various governments, the countries affected generally lack the knowledge, systems and experience to deal appropriately with obsolete pesticides, with the actions taken often worsening existing problems. In particular, a lack of experience dealing with banned pesticides and the absence of appropriate technologies for environmentally sound in-country disposal have posed serious problems, at both national and regional levels.

Through a Turkey-funded project, FAO sought to evaluate the scope of the obsolete pesticide problem in Central Asian countries by supporting them in the implementation of a detailed inventory and risk assessment. In addition, the project aimed to identify needs within the countries for further legal, institutional and technical capacity building in pest and pesticide management and, as a consequence, intended to identify and move towards the elimination of their obsolete pesticide stocks.

Under the project, FAO conducted training in inventory management and the Pesticide Stock Management System to increase the technical capacities of relevant ministries in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in obsolete pesticide management. An inventory of obsolete pesticides was finalized in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey, as well as in the southern part of Kazakhstan. Inventory data was analysed and uploaded to the Pesticide Stock Management System, along with data relating to safeguarding and disposal, pesticide registration management, import control and stock management.

Moreover, a legal assessment was carried out for national authorities responsible for the registration and management of pesticides, the development of policies, the updating and modifying of legislation, the strengthening of the registration process and control methods associated with pesticides, and providing valuable information on gaps present in the targeted countries.

Protecting rural livelihoods through improved cattle production in Central Asian countries

Contribution:
USD 600 000

Beneficiaries:
Farmers and livestock holders

Location:
Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

Duration:
2011–2014

Results:

A total of 355 farmers registered in cattle producer associations (72 in Azerbaijan, 158 in Kyrgyzstan, 125 in Tajikistan);

Demonstration plots established for forage production (4 in Kyrgyzstan, 8 in Tajikistan, 5 in Azerbaijan);

A total of 665 farmers trained on livestock husbandry and management practices;

28 members supported to attend 2 study tours (India and Turkey) to observe/study small-scale and advanced livestock production systems;

Milk collection and marketing system, and milk cooling centres established in all 3 countries.

Contribution to the SDGs:



Following the collapse of state-supported livestock breed improvement systems in Central Asian countries came the collapse of the large-scale state farms, poultry houses, abattoirs and milk processing plants. Intensive, well-managed, sanitary and progressive livestock and poultry production systems were largely replaced by the privatization of livestock within smallholder households and at subsistence production levels. Productivity per animal fell markedly following independence in Central Asian countries, as a result of the reduction of imports or manufactured concentrate feeds, the unavailability of breed improvement services, land registration disputes preventing previous transhumance grazing patterns, disruption of marketing channels and the dispersion of livestock to smaller households with less-intensive, less-productive husbandry.

To help address these problems, a Turkey-funded FAO project sought to improve livestock productivity by establishing cattle producer associations for training and service delivery, enabling access to better feed, disseminating modern livestock farm husbandry and management practices, and supporting modern milk marketing associations.

Training was provided in the areas of livestock husbandry, forage production, animal feeding and herd management and health to selected farmers, who subsequently became the founding members of the cattle producer associations in each country. A total of 355 farmers were registered as members. Demonstration plots for forage production were also established in each country, and practical demonstrations were conducted for the preparation of maize silage for small-scale farms. Feeding trials using high-quality forage were initiated in all three countries. Livestock husbandry and management practices were improved through the provision of training to 665 farmers on animal disease control, care of pregnant and newborn cattle, and livestock feeding, breeding and marketing. Meanwhile, 28 members were supported to attend two study tours, in India and Turkey, to observe and study small-scale and advanced livestock production systems. A milk collection and marketing system, and milk cooling centres, were also established in all three countries under the cattle producer associations.



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Enhancing global food governance

As globalization has increased the trade in food and agricultural commodities, the task of keeping them safe has become more complicated. Food safety concerns everyone, including farmers, processors, retailers, consumers and governments. When consistently applied throughout the food chain, internationally harmonized standards based on sound science protect consumers. Therefore, they must be set in all areas affecting food and agriculture. Food additives and pollutants, animal health and the responsible management of natural resources, such as fisheries and forests, are only a few of the areas where international standards are needed.

FAO works toward setting international standards in many areas connected with food and agriculture. The Organization plays an important role as an international forum and a repository of knowledge and expertise. It develops codes, norms and conventions and helps nations to implement them. It works with international partners and Members to ensure the safety and quality of food, facilitate trade, maintain plant and animal health and provide for the future of precious natural resources.

Turkey's contributions to FAO strengthen efforts to boost international standards/ frameworks through three major vehicles: the Codex Alimentarius (Codex), the IPPC and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). As host of the governing bodies of these three major covenants, FAO facilitates Members' participation in these intergovernmental mechanisms and lends its institutional resources and expertise to further their success. Outside of these vehicles, FAO brokers international guidelines and agreements, including in the area of responsible fisheries, which Turkey has supported with generous additional funding.

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

The ITPGRFA, also known as the International Plant Treaty, facilitates the conservation, sustainable use and continued open exchange of food crops and their genetic materials between countries. This helps to ensure that farmers and researchers across the globe continue to have access to the world's most important food crops and can utilize the valuable genetic traits found therein to transform the livelihoods of farming families and contribute to more climate-resilient food production systems.

Turkey became a Contracting Party of the International Plant Treaty in 2007, contributing over USD 400 000 to support its operations since then. During this period, two Treaty Benefit-sharing Fund projects have been implemented in Turkey, focused on addressing the challenges of climate change to help smallholder farmers combat hardships and sustain their livelihoods, with a particular focus on wheat — an important crop in Turkey.

A collaborative project in Iran, Turkey and Mexico explored how winter wheat adapts to different climate patterns in the region, resulting in the identification of well-adapted wheat varieties and landraces, and the distribution of genetic resources to participating gene banks and farmers. The second project focused on expanding on-farm wheat diversity through the introduction and promotion of improved wheat landraces, capacity-building initiatives and the establishment of community-based conservation systems. Resulting materials have been transferred to national gene banks and made available globally through the Treaty's Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing. The improved wheat seeds were distributed to farmers in 12 provinces of Turkey.

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

Turkey is a Contracting Party to the IPPC since 1988, actively participating in the Convention's work and providing regular technical support to the Convention's activities aimed at securing coordinated, effective actions to prevent and control the introduction and spread of pests that affect plants and plant products. The Convention, governed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, covers cultivated plants and natural flora. It also extends to vehicles, aircrafts and vessels, containers, storage facilities, soil and other objects or materials that can harbour or spread pests. The IPPC encourages collaboration between various national and regional plant protection organizations to implement the rules set out in the agreement.


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Codex Alimentarius

Turkey attended the first meeting of the Codex in 1963 and has remained a strong supporter of the Joint FAO/World Health Organization (WHO) Food Standards Programme, which plays an important role in ensuring the safety, quality and fairness of the international food trade by setting international standards, guidelines and codes of practice.

Codex's broad scope, covering areas such as contaminants, nutrition, food hygiene, food labelling, additives, antimicrobial resistance and pesticide and veterinary drug residues, makes it an essential part of achieving food security and Zero Hunger. Public concern about food safety, meanwhile, often places Codex at the centre of global debates.

For many years, Turkey has been active in Codex, and particularly in the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe, where Turkey has always played a supportive role by delivering training and sharing experiences on building a successful national Codex structure. Turkey is also currently particularly active in the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs, leading work on the draft standard for oregano.

The Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains one of the greatest threats to marine ecosystems due to its potent ability to undermine national and regional efforts to manage fisheries sustainably.

Target 14.4 of the SDGs — which aims to end IUU fishing and restore fish stocks to healthy and productive levels by 2020 — has been the driver for action against IUU fishing by governments, regional fisheries management organizations, intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations worldwide for the past five years.

The PSMA entered into force on 5 June 2016. As of April 2020, there were 66 Parties to the Agreement, including Turkey, which ratified the Agreement on 30 March 2018. In 2017, FAO established its "Global Programme to support the implementation of the PSMA and complementary international instruments". The Global Programme provides capacity development support to states to comply with their flag, port, coastal and market state responsibilities to combat IUU fishing, through promoting the adoption and implementation of international instruments, guidelines and tools. The Programme additionally supports the development of global information systems in support of the implementation of the PSMA, and assists concerned states with travel costs to participate in the meetings of the Parties to the PSMA and related working groups, along with meetings of the working groups of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels.



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Strengthening the resilience of livelihoods

We cannot hope to end hunger and poverty without creating resilient livelihoods. People around the world are increasingly exposed to natural hazards and crises — from natural disasters and disease epidemics to conflict, market shocks and protracted crises. Worldwide, 75 percent of poor and food insecure people rely on agriculture and natural resources for their living. They are usually hardest hit by disasters. In this context, Turkey provided financial support to FAO's 2014/2015 locust campaign towards safeguarding food security for the most vulnerable rural populations in Madagascar.

Turkey is home to the largest refugee population in the world, with more that 3.6 million Syrian refugees as of April 2019. The complexity of the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic is placing unprecedented pressure on food systems and socio-economic development in Turkey, with SuTP remaining dependent on international humanitarian assistance despite significant investments by the Government of Turkey. With support from various resource partners, FAO and Turkey work together to implement the Syrian Refugee Resilience Plan, building on four main pillars: (i) promoting skills and knowledge for sustainable agricultural livelihoods and food security and nutrition; (ii) supporting employability and entrepreneurship in the food and agriculture sector; (iii) investing in the sustainable development of the agriculture sector and utilization of natural resources; and (iv) improving access to social protection. The Plan covers the provinces in Turkey with the highest populations of SuTP and where there is potential for their integration into the local economy.

Enhancing livelihood resilience and social cohesion between Syrians under Temporary Protection and host communities

Thanks to contributions from the European Union (through its Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, also known as the Madad Fund) and Japan, and in partnership with Turkey's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Ministry of Family and Labour and Social Services, FAO and the UNHCR have implemented numerous projects since 2017 to improve the skills of SuTP and vulnerable host communities through a vocational and entrepreneurship training programme. The programme, which was designed to enhance agricultural livelihoods through increased access to the local labour market and to establish private sector partnerships to fill labour gaps, has built the resilience of the targeted groups by diversifying livelihoods and enhancing job opportunities in the food, agriculture and livestock sectors.

At the community level, social cohesion has also been strengthened by directing the programming at both host communities and SuTP, and by providing venues for joint learning and productivity. This has helped prevent conflicts and reinforce the peaceful integration of SuTP in the country, contributing to social stability in the region. A positive impact can already be seen from on-the-job training, which has allowed Turkish companies to familiarize themselves with Syrian workers, reducing discrimination and negative prejudices about cultural differences.



Turkey's emergency support in response to the locust plague in Madagascar

Contributions:
USD 100 000

Beneficiaries:
Rural populations in areas affected by the locust plague, National Locust Centre

Location:
Madagascar

Duration:
2015–2016

Results:

6 motorcycles purchased and related operating costs supported to enable National Locust Centre to access remote areas for surveillance and control operations;

Cost of teams implementing campaign supported;

Fostered supervision of construction work on central pesticide storage facility;

Operating costs of teams managing air and land surveillance and control operations supported.

Contribution to the SDGs:



Starting in 2012, Madagascar faced a locust plague which affected up to two-thirds of the country, devastating crops and pastures and leaving many farmers in extreme poverty. In a country where 80 percent of the population relies on agriculture to make a living, the plague had the potential to destroy the livelihoods of more than 13 million people.

In response, FAO initiated a three-year programme to tackle the locust crisis and protect the livelihoods of vulnerable farmers. Through three campaigns, FAO implemented targeted surveillance and control operations while building the capacity of local authorities. Timely financial support from Turkey helped fill a critical funding gap in the programme's third campaign (2015/2016), helping to ensure the continuation of surveillance and control operations through the purchase of critical equipment, supervision of construction activities for a central pesticide storage facility, and improved coordination of the programme. In particular, the project enabled the purchase of motorcycles to allow staff from the National Locust Centre to conduct surveillance and control operations in remote areas. The project also made vital human resource contributions, helping to cover the cost of the teams involved in the implementation of the campaign, including national consultants necessary for the coordination and strengthening of the country's locust control and monitoring capacities. In addition, the project facilitated the supervision (through national experts and one international consultant) of the construction of a central pesticide storage facility, capable of storing approximately 112 000 litres of pesticides. Finally, project resources also supported the operating costs of teams responsible for managing air and land surveillance and control operations.

Through contributions like these from Turkey and other resource partners, FAO was successful in limiting the damage caused by locusts on crops and pastures and in safeguarding the food security of the most vulnerable rural populations in Madagascar. Overall, between 2013 and 2016, the programme's operations helped to control the locust populations over 2.3 million ha — nearly 1.22 million ha during the 2013/14 campaign, 640 000 ha during the 2014/15 campaign and almost 472 400 ha during the 2015/16 campaign.

The way forward

Going forward, Turkey and FAO will continue their joint work around common priorities, including food security, food safety, sustainable agriculture, animal and plant genetic resources, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture and the responsible use of natural resources. Turkey will continue to work with FAO through a two-way collaboration, leveraging the Organization's technical capacity to meet national priorities, while also providing technical and financial contributions to the Organization. FAO will capitalize on the experience of the country in supporting vulnerable populations in the region, with a strong focus on rural women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship. The partnership will be guided by the second phase of the FTPP (FTPP II), focusing mainly on the Central Asia region, but also extending to Africa and beyond. A programmatic and regional approach will be adopted, where common goals and expected impacts are clearly established.

Regional collaboration and capacity building will be essential in order to monitor current and emerging threats and enable the development of appropriate strategies. In line with this, Turkey and FAO are contributing to strengthening the capacity of the ECO-RCC to provide systematic and useful support to its Member States, and acquire necessary advice, guidance and information for improving their food security and nutrition policies and programmes. Turkey and FAO are also leveraging and sharing the country's knowledge, technical and research capacities to members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Organization, bolstering agricultural development in the region and facilitating collaboration to increase agricultural production, mitigate poverty, and strengthen food security. Furthermore, Turkey will also support the enhancement of official food safety control and risk communication, providing an enabling environment for the public and private sectors to address priority food safety risks in the Central Asia region. At the same time, by facilitating collaboration and strengthening national capacities on surveillance, race analysis, integrated disease management and the development of disease-resistant varieties, Turkey will foster the prevention and management of wheat rust diseases in countries of the region.

Turkey will also put a great emphasis on natural resources, with a focus on fisheries, livestock and forestry. The country will play an important role in increasing the capacities of Central Asian countries to effectively address the sustainable exploitation, management and protection of fisheries through the development of the aquaculture sector. In addition, Turkey will support the transferring of modern technologies for the management of animal genetic resources and sustainable livestock production in the region. In the area of forestry, under the FTFP, Turkey will support comprehensive projects on improving sustainable forest management, preventing and controlling forest fires and conserving forest biodiversity, as well as introducing innovative and participatory approaches in the restoration of degraded forests. An increase in technical and institutional capacities for the restoration of degraded forests and other lands, meanwhile, will contribute to counteract climate change, the spread of desertification and water scarcity. Turkey will

also expand its regional focus by contributing to an initiative in Sudan, Mauritania and Eritrea to restore degraded lands and implement FAO's innovative restoration approach for the Great Green Wall.

Turkey prioritizes the prevention and reduction of food loss and waste at national and regional level in the context of the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, while ensuring food and nutrition security, as envisaged by the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. To this end, some targeted measures have been undertaken, including the establishment of a G20 Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste, the launch of a Bread Waste Campaign and the implementation of the national Save Your Food initiative to increase awareness on food loss and waste at national level and enhance dialogue and collaboration among relevant stakeholders along the food value chain to tackle the problem of food loss at national level. Likewise, Turkey is also supporting the Central Asia region through the development of national strategies and action plans for reducing food loss and waste, aligned with national policies and context, and based on the "food waste management hierarchy". The initiative will focus on implementing the key strategic actions of the food loss and waste reduction strategy, both at the policy and technical levels, and will target all subsectors of the food system, from farmers to consumers.

These initiatives will be a firm foundation for Turkey and FAO to continue in their endeavour to develop new and improved interventions that rise to the biggest challenges of our time — including those outlined in the SDGs — and to do so in ways that serve both people and the planet.


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List of Turkey-funded projects (ongoing from 2009–2020)*

Project symbol	Project title	Budget (USD)**	Start date	End date	Location
GCP/RER/044/TUR	ECO Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security (RCC-FS)	499 212	01/06/2013	31/12/2019	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
OSRO/MAG/504/TUR	Emergency support to the locust Campaign 2014/2015 in Response to the Locust Plague in Madagascar	100 000	01/04/2015	30/09/2015	Madagascar
GCP/AZE/005/TUR	Improving livelihood of rural population in Azerbaijan through increased apiculture productivity	200 000	02/02/2015	31/12/2017	Azerbaijan
GCP/INT/137/TUR	Mutually acceptable mechanism on integrated use of water resources in Central Asia through applying a Scenario Approach	449 970	20/01/2012	31/12/2012	Interregional
GCP/KYR/008/TUR	Development of an agricultural development strategy in Kyrgyzstan for 2011–2020	200 000	01/09/2011	31/12/2013	Kyrgyzstan
GCP/RER/025/TUR	Identification and formulation of a project to strengthen Scientific, Technical and Institutional cooperation to support responsible fisheries in the Black Sea	100 000	15/05/2012	31/12/2015	Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine
GCP/RER/028/TUR	Identification, Assessment and Stewardship of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in Azerbaijan and Turkey	250 000	15/07/2010	30/09/2014	Azerbaijan, Turkey
GCP/RER/029/TUR	Capacity Development for Analysis and Strengthening of Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) in Central Asia and Turkey	220 000	12/07/2010	31/03/2013	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan
GCP/RER/030/TUR	Conservation Agriculture for Irrigated Areas in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan	600 000	01/01/2011	31/12/2013	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
GCP/RER/031/TUR	Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (FISHDEV — CA)	1 785 230	05/12/2009	04/12/2014	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Project symbol	Project title	Budget (USD)**	Start date	End date	Location
GCP/RER/035/TUR	Initiative for Pesticides and Pest Management in Central Asia and Turkey	450 000	10/08/2010	31/12/2013	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
GCP/SEC/001/TUR	Cattle Production Improvement Module in the Sub-Regional Central Asian Countries (SEC)	600 000	11/10/2011	31/12/2014	Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
GCP/SEC/002/TUR	Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Mountain Watersheds in Central Asia and the Caucasus	300 000	20/01/2012	31/12/2015	Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan
GCP/SEC/003/TUR	Promoting the Management of Animal Genetic Resources in SEC countries	700 000	21/11/2011	30/04/2015	Central Asia
GCP/SEC/006/TUR	FAO/GIEWS National Price Database and Analysis Tool	150 000	01/07/2013	30/06/2015	Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan
GCP/SEC/007/TUR	Capacity Development Support to Rural Women on the Socio-economic and Gender Aspects of Sustainable Rural Development	320 657	20/05/2013	30/06/2016	Azerbaijan, Turkey
GCP/SEC/008/TUR	Strengthening national capacities for production and analysis of sex-disaggregated data through the implementation of the FAO Gender and Agriculture Framework (GASF)	330 000	03/06/2013	31/05/2016	Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey
GCP/SEC/009/TUR	Enhancing Visibility of FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP)	197 495	01/04/2013	31/12/2017	Central Asia
GCP/SEC/010/TUR	Capacity development in food safety risk management of food processing enterprises and national authorities in Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Tajikistan	200 000	01/10/2013	28/02/2017	Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

*Contributions provided to Multilateral/Pooled Trust Funds are not included in the list.
**In USD, subject to change for ongoing projects.

Project symbol	Project title	Budget (USD)**	Start date	End date	Location
GCP/SYR/014/TUR	Capacity Building in Sustainable Forest Management Planning and Forest Fire Management in Syria	229 993	08/01/2010	30/06/2012	Syrian Arab Republic
GCP/TAJ/006/TUR	Home Based Nursery Development for Improved Food Security and Environmental Protection in Tajikistan	199 942	01/01/2010	31/12/2011	Tajikistan
GCP/TAJ/009/TUR	Improving food security, food safety and living standards of vulnerable populations in Tajikistan, through effective and sustainable control of brucellosis in animals and humans.	180 000	01/01/2012	30/09/2014	Tajikistan
GCP/UZB/002/TUR	Promotion of water saving technologies in the Uzbek water scarce area of the transboundary Podshaota river basin	221 987	02/12/2010	31/10/2015	Uzbekistan
UTF/TUR/052/TUR	Enhancing Organic Farming in Turkey	280 000	01/01/2010	31/07/2011	Turkey
UTF/TUR/054/TUR	Project Formulation on GEF Project 'Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use for improved human nutrition and wellbeing'	18 000	01/02/2011	31/05/2011	Turkey
UTF/TUR/057/TUR	National Geospatial Soil Fertility and Soil Organic Carbon Information System	200 000	01/08/2012	31/07/2015	Turkey
UTF/TUR/058/TUR	Protection and Cultivation of medicinal and Aromatic Plants in West Mediterranean Region in Turkey	180 000	08/05/2012	08/12/2014	Turkey
UTF/TUR/060/TUR	Strengthening of national and institutional capacity on land consolidation	124 999	17/03/2014	19/11/2015	Turkey
GCP/INT/340/TUR	Boosting Restoration, Income, Development, Generating Ecosystem Services (BRIDGES)	3 000 000	05/07/2018	01/08/2021	Eritrea, Mauritania, Sudan

Project symbol	Project title	Budget (USD)**	Start date	End date	Location
GCP/SEC/013/TUR	Capacity Building for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Management in Central Asia (FishCAP) (Phase I aquaculture and food safety)	1 000 000	01/11/2019	31/10/2022	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
GCP/SEC/015/TUR	Reduction of Food Loss and Waste in the SEC Countries	1 500 000	01/11/2019	31/10/2021	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
GCP/AZE/006/TUR	Development of organic agriculture and institutional capacity building in Azerbaijan	299 573	01/01/2015	30/04/2018	Azerbaijan
GCP/SEC/004/TUR	Towards better national and regional locust management in Caucasus and Central Asia	600 000	03/03/2014	28/02/2019	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan
GCP/SEC/016/TUR	Strengthening regional collaboration and national capacities for management of wheat rust diseases and resistance breeding in Central Asia and Caucasus (CAC Rust)	1 067 000	01/01/2020	31/12/2024	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
GCP/SEC/017/TUR	Support the transformation of the Economic Cooperation Organization Food Security Coordination Centre (ECO-RCCFS) from a programme-based organization to a self-sustainable institution in the Economic Cooperation Organization	500 000	01/01/2020	31/12/2021	ECO member countries
GCP/SEC/019/TUR	Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Cooperation Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (BSEC-CSFS)	500 000	01/08/2020	31/07/2023	BSEC member countries

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**In USD, subject to change for ongoing projects.

List of Turkey-funded projects operational in 2020*

Project symbol	Project title	Budget (USD)	Location
GCP/RER/062/TUR	Improving national food safety systems and regional cooperation	650 000	Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkey
GCP/SEC/014/TUR	Improving efficiency of small ruminant production for reduction of GHG emission intensity	1 100 000	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
GCP/SEC/018/TUR	"Leaving no one behind": harnessing opportunities for the economic growth through greater involvement and empowerment of rural women in Turkey and Central Asia	950 000	Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan
GCP/SEC/020/TUR	Enhancing the Visibility of the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programmes (FTPP II and FTFP)	400 000	Turkey

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