



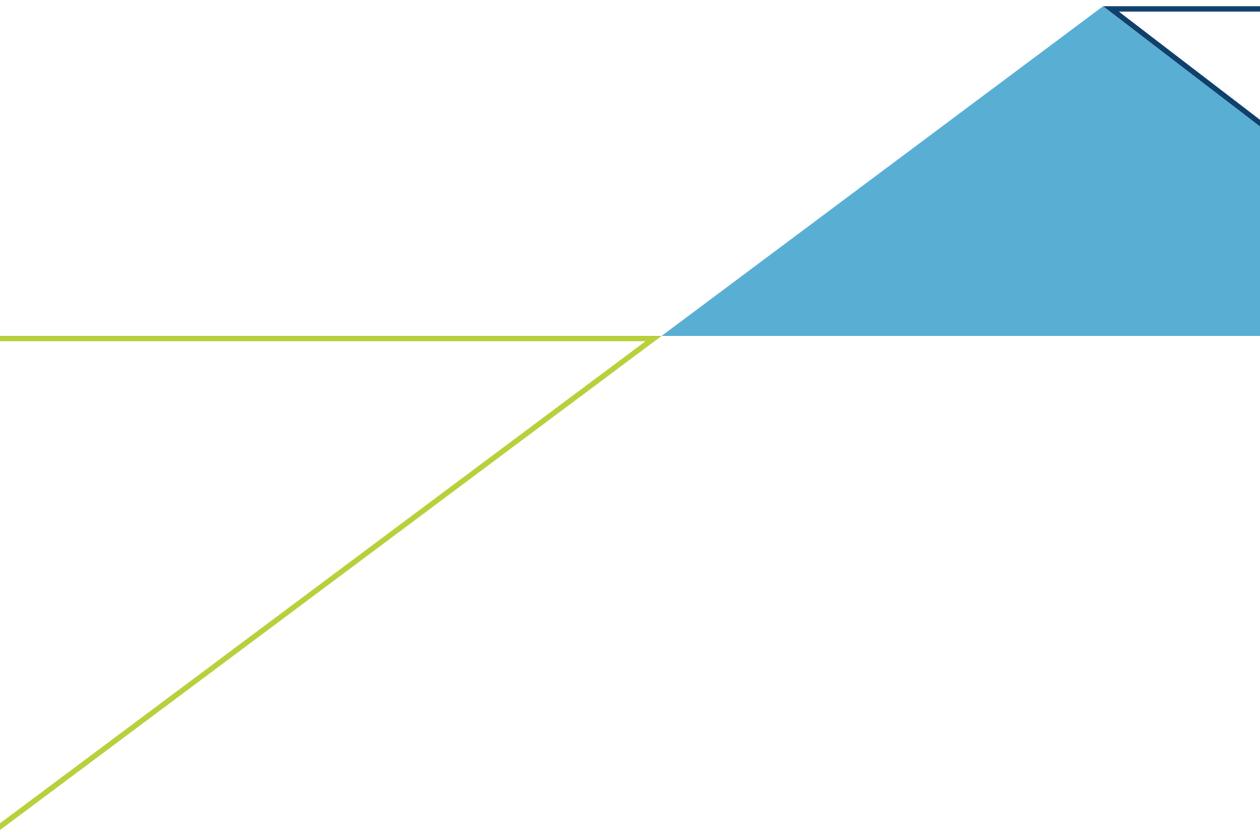
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

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# FAO & TÜRKİYE PARTNERSHIP

Partnering for food security and sustainable  
management of natural resources





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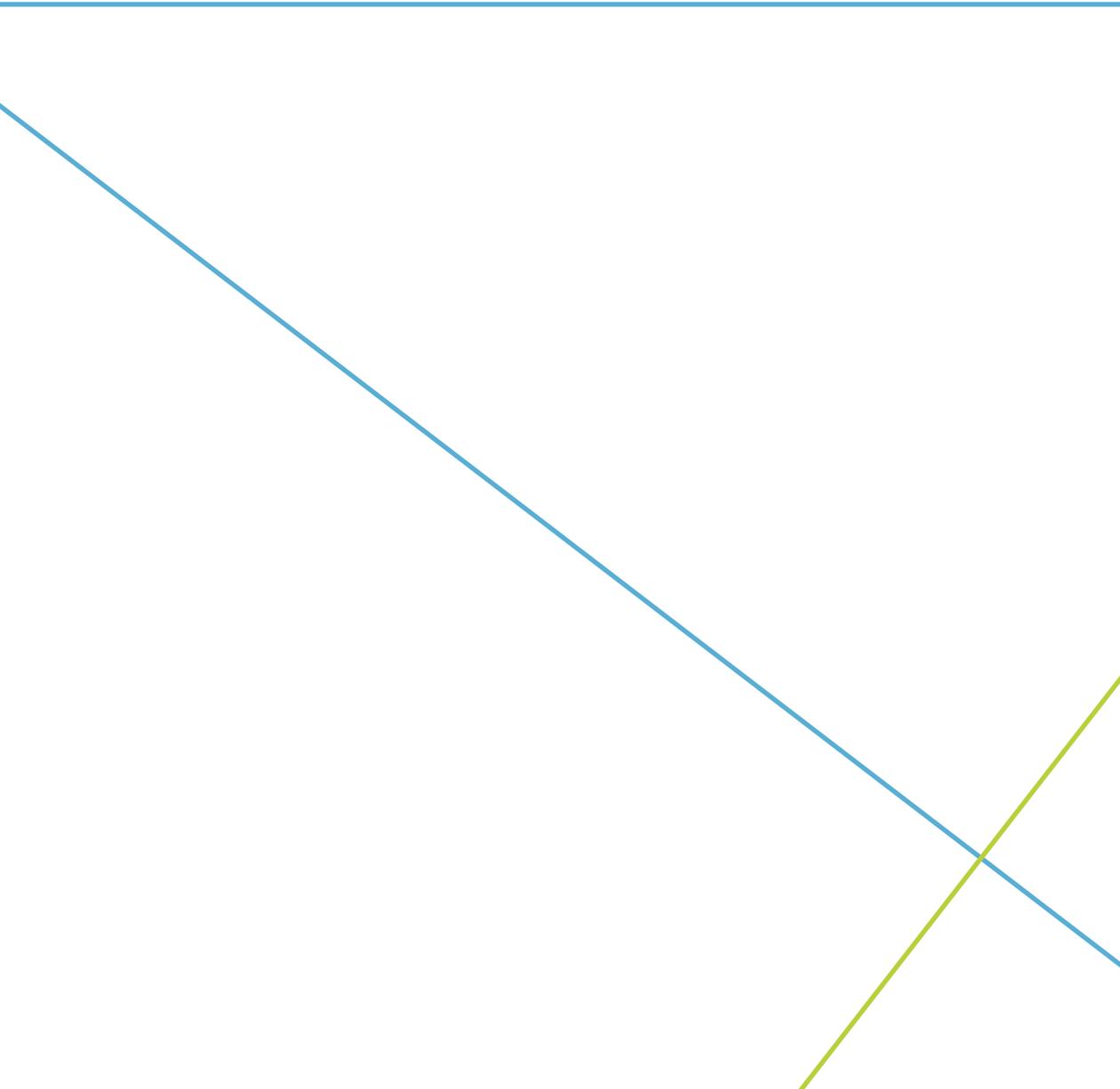
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Building on  
**Türkiye's**  
long-lasting  
**partnership**  
with **FAO**

Reaching out to  
**Central Asia,**  
the **Caucasus,**  
**Africa** and  
beyond

FAO's Subregional  
Office for Central  
Asia, **established** in  
Ankara **in 2007** with  
the operational support  
of the **Government**  
**of Türkiye**

Türkiye's support  
totals **USD 30  
million** to date

**28 projects  
implemented**

between 2009  
and 2015 with  
total funding of  
USD 10 million

The **new phase** of  
the **partnership  
programme** involves  
**19 projects**

## **Working together for food security and sustainable management of natural resources**

Türkiye is one of FAO's most important partners working to implement programmes across Europe and Central Asia. Today, Türkiye and FAO are engaged in close cooperation to achieve the shared goal of eradicating poverty and hunger, and ensuring sustainable management of natural resources.

The partnership between FAO and Türkiye has thrived since the creation of the FAO Country Office in 1982. This was followed by the signing of a Host Country Agreement in 2006 and the establishment of the Subregional Office for Central Asia in Ankara in 2007. The operational support of the Government of the Republic of Türkiye enhances FAO's ability to respond to national needs as well as the regional priorities of countries in the subregion – Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

FAO and Türkiye's cooperation continues to prosper through two Partnership Programmes dedicated to food security and sustainable management of natural resources – the FAO-Türkiye Partnership Programme on Food and Agriculture (FTPP) and the FAO-Türkiye Forestry Partnership Programme (FTFP), both of which are supported by trust fund contributions of the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, which total to date USD 30 million.

The two programmes contribute significantly to strengthening the capacities of the countries of Central Asia and Caucasus in the areas of agriculture and forestry as well as the capacities of other countries, such as in Africa and the Balkans, not only through the provision of funding but also through shared experience and expertise.

### **FAO-Türkiye Partnership Programme on Food and Agriculture (FTPP)**

The overarching objective of the FTPP is to provide support to ensure food security and rural poverty reduction in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Projects in the programme are formulated based on country needs and priorities and are carried out at national, multi-country and subregional levels.

Türkiye's agricultural expertise is shared with national authorities in the subregion through study tours, farmer field schools and training demonstrations of good agricultural practices.

The programme is implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, with extensive support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Strategy and Budget Office of the Presidency (SBO) and the Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA).

## **First Phase of FAO-Türkiye Partnership Programme on Forestry and Agriculture (FTPP) (2009–2015)**

FTPP benefits from trust fund contributions totalling to date USD 20 million financed by the Government of the Republic of Türkiye through the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The programme aims to promote and safeguard natural resources in a sustainable manner and ensure food security in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Participating countries during the first phase of the Programme included Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In addition, Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Syria and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) benefited from some of the projects.

Between 2009 and 2015, 28 projects covering 16 countries have been implemented in the subregion funded by contributions from the Republic of Türkiye amounting to USD 10 million.

### **New phase of FTPP (2014 – the present)**

In 2014, Türkiye and FAO agreed to commence the second phase of FTPP. For the programme's second phase, a further trust fund contribution of US 10 million was granted focusing on food security and nutrition, agricultural and rural development, protection and management of natural resources, agricultural policies and food safety. The second phase of the programme covers activities in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan and beyond, including African and Balkan countries.

## **FAO-Türkiye Forestry Partnership Programme (FTFP)**

In addition to FTPP, the Government of Türkiye has committed USD 10 million to the FAO-Türkiye Forestry Partnership Programme (FTFP). Established in 2014, the FTFP aims to strengthen the capacities of countries in the subregion and beyond by sharing Türkiye and FAO's technical expertise in forestry, natural resources, desertification and sustainable development for practical application in the field.

Areas covered by the Agreement include sustainable forest management, plantations and rehabilitation, forest products and ecosystem services, forests and the environment, people and forests, governance, assessments and monitoring, combating desertification and interdisciplinary issues.

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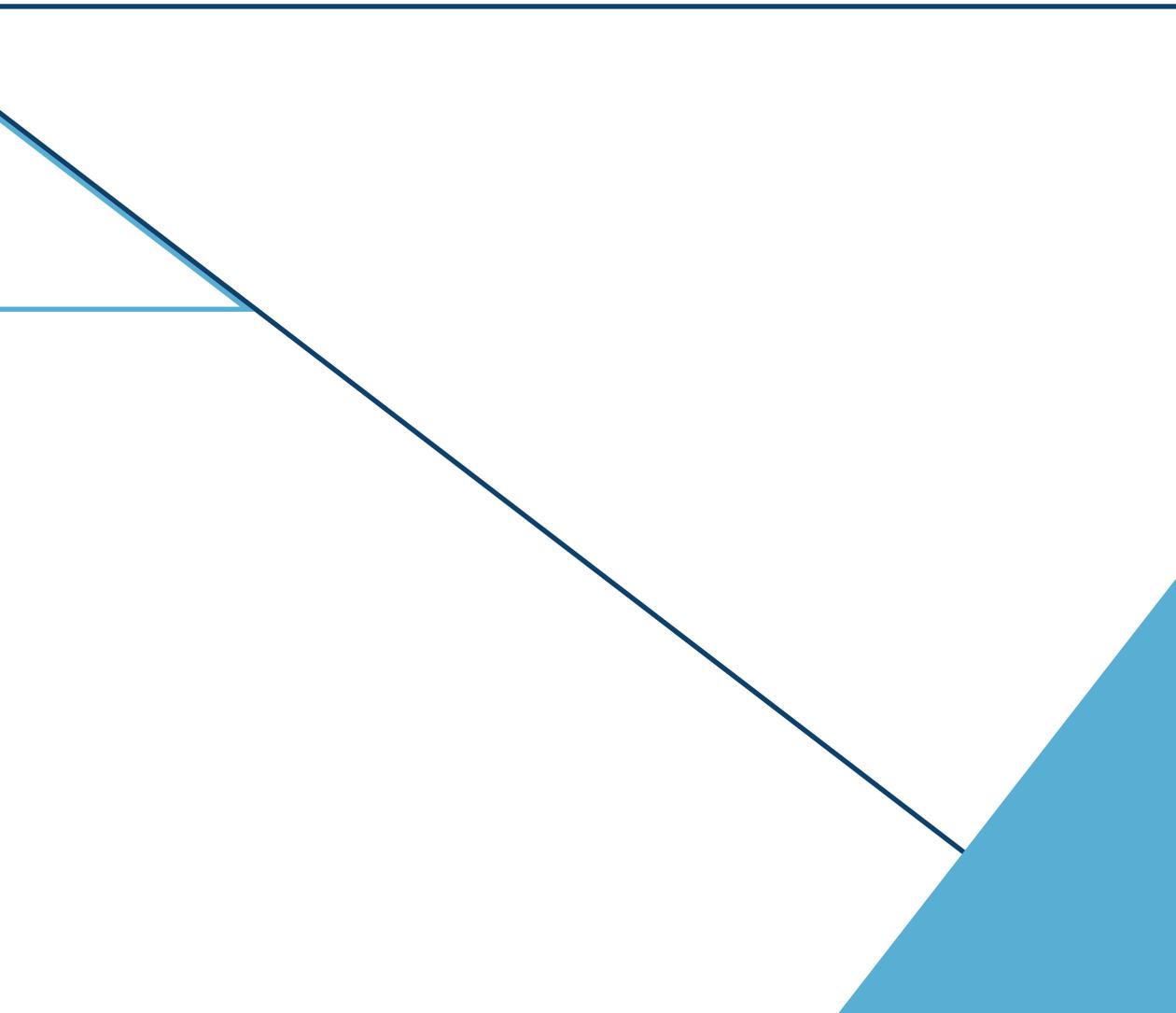
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# Promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

“Capacity development for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management in Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Türkiye (Phase I - aquaculture and food safety)-FISHCap”

**Objective:**

Increase regional capacities to effectively address the sustainable exploitation, management, protection and development of freshwater resources for sustainable fish production in support of food safety

**Target countries:** Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

**Duration:**

1 January 2020 – 31 December 2023

**Budget:** USD 1 000 000



The Central Asian region has considerable potential to promote sustainable aquaculture and aquaculture. However, institutional capacity building for increased production, sustainable management and development of freshwater aquaculture remains a challenge.

This project builds on the results of the Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (FISHDev), which was implemented between 2009 and 2014 under FTTP I and complements the institutional capacity building and training activities undertaken by the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish).

The project aims to:

- improve **institutional capacity for sustainable management, planning, protection and development of aquaculture resources** in a participatory manner, especially for youth and women in beneficiary countries;
- improve the skill and knowledge base in inland **aquaculture and culture-based fisheries for smallholder fish farms** and commercial small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- enhance the frameworks for **fish safety, quality assurance, processing, marketing** and international market access;
- **strengthen the capacity for aquaculture research and educational opportunities**, especially for youth and women;
- **transfer best management practices**, aquaculture business plans, technical knowledge and technology for fish farming; and support the work of CACFish.

The primary beneficiaries of the project will be governmental technical staff involved in the management of aquaculture, fisheries research and education institutions, policy-makers, extension agents, fish farmers, hatchery managers and representatives of fishers' organizations, traders and processors, especially SMEs. Special emphasis will be placed on actively including and engaging women and youth in project activities.

Project results will be executed through enhanced partnerships with local, national and regional organizations, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, fish farmer associations and other structures, in a way which also contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



# Improving the efficiency of small ruminant production

“Improving efficiency of small ruminant production for reduction of the GHG emission intensity”

**Objective:**

Increased capacities to analyse and improve the efficiency of small ruminants production systems in each participating country and in the Central Asian subregion as a whole

**Target countries:** Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

**Duration:**

1 April 2021 – 31 March 2024

**Budget:** USD 1 100 000



For cultural, ecological and socio-economic reasons, small ruminants production is crucial for Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Türkiye. However, sustainable production faces numerous constraints.

Obsolete husbandry, feeding and breeding practices used by livestock keepers, inefficient dissemination of knowledge, limited utilization of improved production inputs as well as limited application of research-proven locally adapted production practices are among the most important causes of relatively low production efficiency and high greenhouse gases (GHG) emission intensity in the small ruminants sector.

Equipping development agents with knowledge and skills, with particular attention to involving women and youth, is the most promising approach to improving the efficiency of small ruminants production systems.

The project will provide support to recipient countries to:

- **identify gaps and desirable interventions** to improve production efficiency and, consequently, to reduce GHG emission intensity;
- **improve the capacities** of policy-makers, advisory services or alternative knowledge transfer mechanisms and producers' unions to design and implement sustainable small ruminants production systems targeted at smallholders and family farms;
- **equip experts and farmers** with knowledge and skills of climate-smart feed production, modern practices for better husbandry, breeding, feeding, better management of pastures and natural resources, and better herd management;
- **support the protection and improvement of small ruminants genetic resources** through the establishment of a subregional network and technical assistance on better management of small ruminants genetic resources in line with the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources;
- **improve sheep grazing practices** in a pilot province by employing farmer field schools to improve the capacity of herders to manage pastures and the provision of high-yield sheep and residence units for local sheep breeders;
- **empower female livestock keepers** by providing highly productive sheep and training on husbandry, breeding, health management, feeding, community development, cooperative management and leadership, social inclusion and gender mainstreaming, and sharing this experience with other communities.



# Combating land degradation and desertification

“Boosting Restoration, Income, Development, Generating Ecosystem Services (BRIDGES)”

**Objective:**

Improve environmental conditions and productivity of the agro-silvopastoral landscapes affected by desertification, land degradation, and drought, improved the livelihoods of local communities

**Target countries:**

Eritrea, Mauritania and Sudan

**Duration:**

5 July 2018 – 31 December 2022

**Budget:** USD 3 000 000 funded by

FTPP and USD 600,000 funded by AAD



Desertification and land degradation represent very serious challenges: the loss of land, hunger and poverty, unemployment, forced migration and conflict, while exacerbating climate risks such as drought and floods. However, recent successful interventions consisting of large-scale restoration demonstrate that these problems are not insurmountable.

Bold actions and investment in sustainable land management and restoration can boost food security and nutrition, improve livelihoods and help people adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

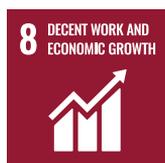
Within the framework of the “FAO-Türkiye Forestry Partnership Programme (FTFP)”, FAO and Türkiye are working to combat land degradation and desertification through the BRIDGES project, supporting the implementation of the Great Green Wall (GGW). This African flagship programme brings prosperity to the drylands of over 20 Saharan countries through large-scale land restoration, and addresses the challenges of deforestation, desertification, biodiversity loss, and climate change and food insecurity.

The BRIDGES project benefits from the support and lessons learnt of FAO’s “Action Against Desertification (AAD)” programme, which is implementing the Great Green Wall in 11 countries: Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan. The AAD programme is being implemented in collaboration with the African Union Commission with the financial support of the European Union, the OACPS Secretariat and the Republic of Türkiye.

The BRIDGES project has four components:

- The restoration of 5 000 ha of degraded dryland forests and landscapes using AAD’s community-based approach, strengthening national seed delivery systems and establishing networks of village level practitioners and management committees. The specific target areas include Gash Barka in Eritrea, Brakna and Trarza wilayas in Mauritania, and Kassala State in Sudan.
- Reinforcing value chains of non-timber forest products (NTFP) for resilient and successful community-based green businesses, in particular gums, resins, fodder, livestock products and food products from trees, simultaneously with village land restoration.
- Building comprehensive biophysical and socio-economic information and monitoring systems in the three countries, contributing to the implementation of GGW.
- Sharing knowledge and good practices and promoting communication, awareness raising and visibility in the three countries and across Africa’s Great Green Wall and drylands worldwide.

The project will share lessons and findings with other interested countries within the GGW programme – especially through the FAO South-South cooperation programme, and will contribute to strengthening existing large-scale restoration networks.



# Reducing food loss and waste

“Reduction of food loss and waste in Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Türkiye”

**Objective:**

Reduction of food loss and waste through implementation of policy, strategy and investment programmes

**Target countries:** Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

**Duration:**

1 November 2019 – 31 October 2022

**Budget:** USD 1 500 000



The global population is expected to surpass 9.7 billion by 2050, with food demand projected to increase by up to 60 percent over the same period. Meanwhile, chronic hunger has risen, reaching nearly 690 million people in the world in 2019, and a considerable amount of food produced is being lost or wasted. The latest available global economic outlooks also suggested that the COVID-19 pandemic might have added an additional 83 to 132 million people to the ranks of the undernourished in 2020. In Türkiye alone, it is estimated that 18 million tonnes of food is lost or wasted annually. This represents more than 20 percent of all food produced in the country.

Current global challenges such as climate change, poverty and hunger are negatively affected by food loss and waste (FLW). Reducing FLW is therefore a key objective to achieve food security, improve food chains and reduce the environmental footprint of food systems.

Curbing food loss and waste requires not only the revision of institutional and legal frameworks, and improvement in the methods of production, conservation and distribution of food, but also a change in resource-intensive consumption patterns and increasing awareness among all actors in the food supply chain, as well as consumers.

Funded by the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, the project aims to assist Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in developing measures to reduce food loss and waste.

In particular, the project will support the recipient countries to:

- develop national gender-sensitive strategic policy and action plans to reduce FLW;
- establish FLW data collection systems, as well as measure and monitor FLW;
- improve knowledge management and capacities;
- raise awareness and understanding of FLW (causes, impact and solutions) among actors in all sectors, including consumers, at national and regional level, leaving no one behind.

In addition, regional collaboration will be strengthened through the establishment of a Regional Committee on Food Loss and Waste. The main project beneficiaries are trainers, extension specialists and other staff of national institutions, government, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, as well as farmer/fisher organizations and other food value chain actors.

Reducing food loss and waste is an important target of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the 2030 Agenda. Target 12.3 calls for “halving per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reducing food loss along production and supply chains (including post-harvest losses) by 2030”. At the same time, project implementation would contribute to achieving other SDG targets, including those relating to food security and nutrition as well as social and environmental sustainability.



# Combating wheat rust diseases

“Strengthening regional collaboration and national capacities for management of wheat rust diseases and resistance breeding in Central Asia and Caucasus (CAC Rust)”

**Objective:**

Improve the productivity and resilience of wheat productions against emerging wheat rust epidemics and races by strengthening national capacities and regional collaboration

**Target countries:** Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

**Duration:**

1 January 2020 – 31 December 2024

**Budget:** USD 1 067 000



Wheat is the most widely grown crop in the world and a staple crop for food security in Central Asia and the Caucasus, with an average annual consumption of around 100 kg per capita in the region. It is produced largely by smallholder farmers for whom it also constitutes an important source of income.

However, the yield and production of wheat in this region are constrained by a number of factors. Among these, wheat rust diseases, namely the yellow rust, leaf rust, and stem rust, caused by species of the fungus *Puccinia spp.*, are among the most important biological constraints.

Due to the frequent appearance of new races of the rust fungi and their rapid spread, continuous monitoring and international collaboration and information exchange are essential.

An integrated approach focusing on breeding and the use of resistant varieties is the key strategy for effective management of these diseases. In cases of unexpected epidemics, farmers need to have the capacity to act quickly to control disease outbreaks.

The CAC-Rust project has been developed to address these challenges faced by the countries in Central Asia and Caucasus.

The project will facilitate regional collaboration and strengthen national capacities to improve surveillance, race analysis and integrated disease management. It will also support the development and deployment of disease resistant varieties.

The project activities are implemented in collaboration with the national institutions of the beneficiary countries, and international institutions, including the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the Regional Cereal Rust Research Center (RCRRC) in Izmir, Türkiye, the International Wheat and Maize Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and the International Winter Wheat Improvement Programme (IWWIP) operated by Türkiye, CIMMYT and ICARDA.

The project will support activities in key domains:

- facilitation of regional collaboration and networking, training of national technical officers;
- support for disease surveillance, race analysis and mapping in support of the global rust monitoring system;
- characterization of the resistance properties of popular varieties;
- support for breeding programmes for developing resistant varieties;
- integrated disease management and farmer training;
- development of national strategies and contingency plans; and
- strengthening of the capacities of institutions for rust management.

The primary beneficiaries of the project interventions will be the national institutions and officers involved in research, extension, seed systems, and plant protection as well as farmers in seven countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Neighbouring countries and surrounding regions would also benefit from the knowledge generated. This is of great value given the importance of early warning of potential epidemics from emerging races.



# Improving food safety systems

“Improving national food safety systems and regional cooperation”

**Objective:**

Strengthened official food safety controls and risk communication in recipient countries, providing an enabling environment for public and private sectors to address priority food safety risks

**Target countries:**

Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Türkiye

**Duration:**

1 January 2021 – 31 December 2023

**Budget:** USD 650 000



Unsafe food is a global threat to human health and economies. According to World Health Organization estimates, food-borne diseases cause 600 million illnesses and 420 000 deaths. Unsafe food also represents a huge burden on economies due to disruptions or restrictions in agri-food trade, loss of food and incomes, and wasted natural resources.

From production to consumption, managing food safety risks is a continuous process of adaptation and improvement. Collaboration among food supply chain actors, underpinned by robust governance, agreed international standards and harmonized regulations, is essential to food safety. Competent authorities must implement these regulations and guiding materials, and ensure effective coordination of activities, while businesses must guarantee safe food production and distribution.

This project will focus on strengthening food safety control systems in five countries in the region – Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Türkiye – and fostering regional cooperation.

The project countries have made significant changes and improvements in their food control systems in recent years. Recognizing the specific context of each national food safety control system, the project will focus on providing support for each country tailored to their needs, as well as on several common challenges from a regional perspective.

The project will support the recipient countries to:

- **strengthen institutional arrangements and working processes** for official food safety controls, consistent with the risk analysis framework;
- **improve knowledge and practical skills** in food safety risk communication, as well as response capacities for food safety emergencies;
- **increase the capacities of national food safety authorities** to implement risk-based inspection and support the capacity development of food business operators on food safety management;
- **increase the capacities of food business operators and public authorities of selected value chains** in the area of food safety management practices, in order to reduce food safety risks.

Concretely, the project will improve collaboration between the different actors in order to provide an enabling environment for the development of a food safety culture. It will also improve communication among food safety authorities on food safety risks as well as with consumers and food chain actors, and strengthen the implementation of risk-based food safety control and inspections.

To achieve the expected results, the project will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences among the participant countries, and bring Turkish expertise and experience in these areas to other project countries. In addition, the project will promote synergies, communication and knowledge transfer with other completed and ongoing food safety projects, allowing for the efficient use of capacity development resources and working to harmonize approaches in the region.



# Restoring forests for environmental development and sustainability

“Forest Restoration Improvement for Environmental Development and Sustainability (FRIENDS)”

**Objective:**

Develop national capacities to successfully conduct large-scale forest and other wooded lands restoration, by enhancing know-how to prevent degradation

**Target countries:**

Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

**Duration:**

1 April 2022 – 31 March 2025

**Budget:** USD 2 000 000



Forests have the capability to play an essential role in mitigating climate change by sequestering millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide and alleviating the impacts of extreme weather events.

The Caucasus and Central Asia are characterized by a harsh climate and a landscape dominated by mountains and deserts with low level of forest cover. In recent years, forests and forest landscapes have been degrading throughout the region due to unauthorized fuel wood removal, logging for commercial purposes, and overgrazing in forest and wooded lands, among other reasons. Moreover, there is a need to strengthen the capacities of forestry institutions to carry out forest management activities and enforce forest protection effectively.

To address the ongoing degradation, countries in the region pledged to restore over 2.5 million hectares of forest landscape by 2030 at the first Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration. In order to strengthen partnerships and enhance regional cooperation, they also participated in the Bonn Challenge for the Caucasus and Central Asia, held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 21–22 June 2018.

The project aims to support these commitments by bringing the experience and expertise of Türkiye in combating degradation and forest restoration to the countries of the region. To achieve this objective, the project will implement a pilot activity to identify and showcase state-of-the-art methodologies.

#### **The project strategy will be based on four components:**

- addressing drivers of degradation and identifying pilot areas;
- capacity development;
- piloting of restoration activities; and
- knowledge sharing and management.

These four components will be based on cross-cutting principles relevant to climate change and gender equality.

#### **Expected outputs:**

- identifying degraded forest and other wooded lands in need of restoration in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan;
- enhancing gender-responsive capacity and knowledge for the prevention of degradation and the restoration of sustainable forest and other wooded lands in recipient countries; and
- establishing pilot sites for the restoration of degraded forests and other wooded lands in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

**The project will contribute to** addressing the priorities of participating countries identified in the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), the UNCCD Strategic Framework (2018–2020), the UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Programme, the UNCCD National Action Programmes and the Bonn Challenge, in particular national commitments announced at the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia as part of the “Astana Resolution” in June 2018.



# Enhancing regional collaboration on food security

“Support the transformation of the Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security (ECO-RCC) from a programme-based organization to a self-sustainable institution in the Economic Cooperation Organization”

**Objective:**

To strengthen ECO-RCC’s capacity to provide systematic and useful support to member countries to enable them to acquire the necessary advice, guidance and information to improve their food security and nutrition policies and programmes

**Target countries:**

ECO member countries (Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

**Duration:**

1 January 2020 – 31 December 2022

**Budget:** USD 500 000



Recent evidence continues to signal a global rise in food insecurity and a reversal of trends following a prolonged decline. This trend is found in most countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). According to the latest estimate, 59 million people are still suffering from undernourishment in the ECO region, indicating that about 13 percent of the regional population is still food insecure.

Continued efforts to improve food security and achieve zero hunger are needed in all the countries of ECO. Furthermore, prevalence of overweight and obesity is increasing in almost all ECO member countries, particularly in middle-income countries and urban areas, with a corresponding increase in the risk of serious health problems.

The Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security (ECO-RCC) was established in 2012 as a programme-based subsidiary body of the ECO dealing with food security, with the aim to facilitate the identification and prioritization of key impediments to food security at national and regional levels, and the planning of coordinated actions to address those impediments. The Centre benefited from the support of the “ECO Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security (GCP/RER/044/TUR)” project, which was financed by the first phase of the FAO-Türkiye Partnership Programme (FTPP), through which FAO provided technical support to enhance the Centre’s institutional capacities.

Among other activities, the project will provide technical support to ECO-RCC to develop an Overview of Food Security in ECO Countries and to update the Regional Food Security Programme (RFSP) of ECO.

The key outputs of the project are as follows:

- enhancement of the capacity of ECO-RCC in food security analysis, programme development and management;
- identification of priority intervention areas by ECO-RCC in consultation with member countries, based on the evidence provided, to be shared with relevant donors including IFIs for funding;
- development of basic ECO-RCC documents including the charter, strategic plan, organigram and work plan, and subsequent approval by the ECO-RCC Steering Committee;
- increased recognition of ECO-RCC’s mandate, activities and operational framework among the member states of the ECO.

Apart from the ECO-RCC, other beneficiaries of the project include the ECO, the food security policy-makers of member countries and eventually the food insecure and vulnerable households and individuals in ECO member states.

ECO-RCC will support the development and implementation of ECO’s strategic programme to address the main impediments to food security at national and regional levels, complementing the initiatives and policies of each country.

The project is implemented in close collaboration with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).



# Empowering rural women

“Leaving no one behind”: greater involvement and empowerment of rural women in Türkiye and Central Asia”

**Objective:**

Empowering rural women and improving rural livelihoods through a two-fold approach: policy level and grass-roots interventions

**Target countries:**

Tajikistan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan with other countries of Central Asia and Europe invited to join regional events for the exchange of best practices

**Duration:**

1 October 2021 – 30 September 2024

**Budget:** USD 950 000



Women contribute significantly to agriculture and food production while also taking care of their families and households, looking after kitchen gardens and small livestock, and preparing agricultural products for home consumption or for sale. Many rural women also collect fuel and water, which further increases their daily workload. Such responsibilities together with the work performed by women often go unrecognized and uncompensated.

Rural women also face barriers in access to various resources that can improve their economic status. Among these are property, including land, decent employment opportunities, technology, credit, and information and skills. Evidence from FAO demonstrates that these gender-based inequalities are to a significant extent responsible for the underperformance of the agriculture sector.

The project consists of three mutually complementing and reinforcing components:

- The project will help **grass-roots rural women in Tajikistan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan** gain knowledge and skills to improve their economic status, start businesses and cooperatives, while empowering them to become agents of change in their communities.
- **The project will also contribute to the creation of an enabling environment for rural women's economic empowerment** by developing the capacities of policymakers and practitioners to formulate evidence-based, socially inclusive and gender-responsive policies in agriculture and food security, and supporting institutional frameworks to translate these policies into action on the ground.
- **The project will create a regional platform** where the ministries of agriculture of Türkiye, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will share challenges, best practices and policy solutions for the implementation of gender responsive agriculture and rural development policies and programmes with the support of regional workshops. Participants from other countries will also have an opportunity to share experiences and best practices that address the needs of rural women. Awareness-raising campaigns to recognize rural women's contribution to agriculture and rural development will be conducted, informed by regional success stories that provide inspiration to rural women across the region.



# Enhancing regional collaboration on sustainable food systems

“Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Cooperation Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (BSEC-CSFS)”

**Objective:** Strengthen regional cooperation among BSEC Member States in the areas of (i) food security and safety; (ii) improving institutional capacities; (iii) poverty alleviation; and (iv) sustainable natural resource management, including aquatic resources

**Target countries:**  
BSEC member countries

**Duration:**  
1 August 2020 – 31 July 2023

**Budget:** USD 500 000



Food systems are undergoing dramatic changes worldwide, becoming increasingly globalized, concentrated, industrialized, and science and capital-intensive. Consumer preferences also change as a result of various factors, especially rapid urbanization and increases in income levels. Although these developments provide immense opportunities, they can also give rise to challenges such as growing malnutrition, increased incidence of food safety issues and transboundary animal and plant disease outbreaks and significant levels of food loss and waste.

No region is free from these challenges and the BSEC region aims to address them through a regional approach focusing on the development of sustainable food systems that:

- ensure food security and provide healthy, balanced and nutritious diets, to contribute to health for all;
- provide decent livelihoods and jobs for all food system actors, notably smallholders, women and youth, contribute to economic growth throughout the agri-food sector (from production to distribution) and to the food trade balance;
- manage, preserve / regenerate ecosystems and natural resource, and limit their effects on climate;
- contribute to inclusive governance, stability and equitable distribution of power among territories so all can achieve the other goals.

Under the project, a Regional Cooperation Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (BSEC-CSFS) has been established with a clear mandate, relevant institutional framework and technical capacity to enhance the sustainability of the whole food value chain from farm to fork among BSEC member states. The BSEC-CSFS will provide BSEC member states with advice, guidance and information in the areas of sustainable food systems.

The project will aim to achieve the following results:

- BSEC Centre for Sustainable Food Systems established and integrated in networks of similar organizations working at national, regional or global levels;
- current State of Sustainable Food Systems in the BSEC region report prepared and disseminated;
- awareness and exchange of information and experiences of gender-responsive Sustainable Food Systems among BSEC member states strengthened;
- tools, information and suitable methodology on gender-responsive Sustainable Food Systems developed and technical capacity of BSEC member states strengthened.

The BSEC-CSFS is relevant to the forthcoming UN Food Systems Summit (New York, September 2021) as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

The project is implemented in close collaboration with the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat (BSEC PERMIS).



# Addressing the abandonment agricultural lands and improving land consolidation

“Enhancing agricultural land market development to address land abandonment and improve land consolidation procedures”

**Objective:** Support the introduction of a land banking instrument in connection with an ongoing land consolidation programme in Türkiye and a planned programme in Azerbaijan, and assess the need for land market development and the feasibility of land management instruments in Uzbekistan

**Target countries:** Azerbaijan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan

**Duration:**  
1 February 2022 – 31 July 2025

**Budget:** USD 710 000



Abandonment or un-utilization of agricultural land is a common problem in many countries, especially in South Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Land abandonment undermines food security, results in lost economic opportunities, and has a range of other negative socio-economic and environmental impacts.

The root causes of land abandonment are often multiple and intertwined and include an ageing rural population, out-migration from rural areas, unviable farm structures, inheritance practices leading to further subdivision of land plots, and others.

The most important factor underlying land abandonment in many countries is unviable farm structures with small average farm sizes and excessive land fragmentation, making agricultural activities uneconomical.

This project aims to support the development of institutional capacity to implement land banking and other land market development measures and instruments to ensure a more sustainable use of agricultural land and address land abandonment, while facilitating farm structure improvement and enlargement in Azerbaijan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan.

Land banking is defined by FAO as a set of systematic activities implemented by an institution with public purpose, performing the intermediate purchase, sale, exchange or lease of land in rural areas in order to increase land mobility, to facilitate development of agricultural land markets, and to pursue public policy objectives related to agricultural and rural development, sustainable land use and implementation of public projects related to nature restoration, environmental protection, climate change and construction of large-scale infrastructure.

Türkiye, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan have different land tenure systems and agricultural policies but share a common objective: to ensure the efficient and sustainable use of agricultural land.

The project consists of four mutually complementing and reinforcing project components:

- analysis of the legal and institutional framework in all three countries;
- assessment of the land market development needs and feasibility of land banking and other land management instruments in selected pilot areas;
- support to the development of procedures and tools for land banking and land consolidation in the context of land market development;
- development of capacities in the public sector to operate land banking instruments and raise awareness.

The project also aims to establish a well-functioning regional collaboration mechanism through knowledge exchange and capacity development between Türkiye and two partner countries: Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan.

The three countries will share and exchange experiences gained during project implementation during a series of sub-regional workshops and policy dialogues aimed at strengthening institutional capacity and taking an integrated policy approach to agricultural land management.



# A project to support the visibility of the FTTP II

“Enhancing the visibility of FAO-Türkiye Partnership Programmes (FTTP II & FTFP)”

**Objective:**

Increased awareness among various relevant audiences about the FAO-Türkiye Partnership Programmes, the objectives, activities and accomplishments

**Target countries:**

Türkiye

**Duration:**

1 October 2020 – 30 September 2023

**Budget:** USD 400 000



Communication activities are integral to the implementation of any project and make a significant contribution to project outcomes as they help convey the achievements to a wide audience. They also contribute to the dissemination of knowledge produced under the projects as well as to the exchange of experiences.

For communications activities to be effective they should cover the duration of the projects from initiation to closure, with a focus on sustaining outcomes and long-term impact. Thorough planning is essential as well as the allocation of sufficient resources, including human resources, for close and timely follow up.

This initiative aims to increase awareness among diverse audiences about the FAO-Türkiye Partnership Programmes, the objectives, activities and accomplishments of key projects under the Programmes made possible by the support of the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, and the impact of FAO-Türkiye cooperation.

The project establishes a clear road map for communication and visibility with clear targets. It employs a holistic and gender-sensitive approach including programme- and project-level interventions with a mechanism to follow up and monitor the results of these activities.

The project aims to:

- develop a Communication and Visibility Strategy and Action Plan for the FAO-Türkiye Partnership Programmes as well as Communication and Visibility Action Plans for each project;
- develop and disseminate information, promotion and advocacy materials, such as booklets, factsheets and newsletters, etc.;
- increase the national, regional and international media outreach of the Partnership Programmes;
- increase the visibility of Türkiye at project sites and at relevant national, regional and international events.



## Projects under formulation

Several other projects are currently under formulation:

### Strengthening Collaboration between FAO and MAF through Enhancing the Capacity of the International Forestry Training Centre

**Objective:** Enhanced capacity and improved knowledge for sustainable forest and land management and climate change

**Duration:** 36 months

**Recipient countries:** Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

**Budget:** USD 1 000 000

Forests in Türkiye are mostly located in the Mediterranean region, which is prone to forest fires. Türkiye has acquired significant experience in combating forest fires, including fire management. In order to strengthen these efforts, and share technical experience and knowledge, the International Forest Fires Training Centre was established in Antalya in 2011, and transformed into the International Forestry Training Centre in 2015.

The project under the FAO-Türkiye Forestry Partnership Programme will seek to apply FAO's sub-regional experience in Central Asia to enhance the capacity of the International Forestry Training Centre. The project will aim to:

- identify the capacity, technical and technology needs of the Centre;
- address the capacity, technical and technology needs of the Centre; and
- provide technical capacity-building activities for mainly FAOSEC countries.

### Improving Biodiversity and Sustainable Forestry

**Objective:** Strengthening capacity and knowledge for biodiversity conservation, and promoting sustainable forest management across the sub-region

**Duration:** 36 months

**Budget:** USD 3 300 000

**Target countries:** Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

**Recipient countries:** Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Protected areas are important means for improving biodiversity conservation. However, due to the lack of institutional, human and technical capacities, and sufficient funding mechanisms, only a very limited number of protected areas are managed effectively.

Conversely, while local organizational units in the countries of the region have the capacity to implement multipurpose sustainable forest management, they work with outdated or non-existent multifunctional forest management plans, outdated forest resources inventory data and lack of information on the needs of communities depending on forests.

The FAO-Türkiye Forestry Partnership Programme will support Central Asia countries to improve the current situation with the help of Turkish technical experience and financial assistance.

This regional project will also focus on increasing technical and institutional capacities in this field.

## Building Capacities through South-South Cooperation (SSTC)

**Objective:** Strengthened collaboration in technical assistance and capacity building among FTTP II/FTFP partner countries and the sharing of Turkish technical expertise, experience and knowledge

**Duration:** 48 months

**Recipient countries:** Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

**Budget:** USD 100 000

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) is an excellent mechanism for Southern countries – including developing countries, countries in transition and emerging economies – to share key development solutions while promoting the core principle of mutual benefits among partners. It is also critical to achieving FAO's strategic framework as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a whole.

In 2021, FAO and Türkiye signed a SSTC agreement to deploy Turkish experts to projects sites in Central Asia as part of the FAO-Türkiye Partnership Programmes for food and agriculture and forestry. Based on this agreement, a project has been developed with the principle objective of expediting the transfer of Turkish experts/expertise to other FTTP II and FTFP project sites. The project is implemented in association with the other FTTP II and FTFP project operations, rather than operating as a stand-alone initiative.

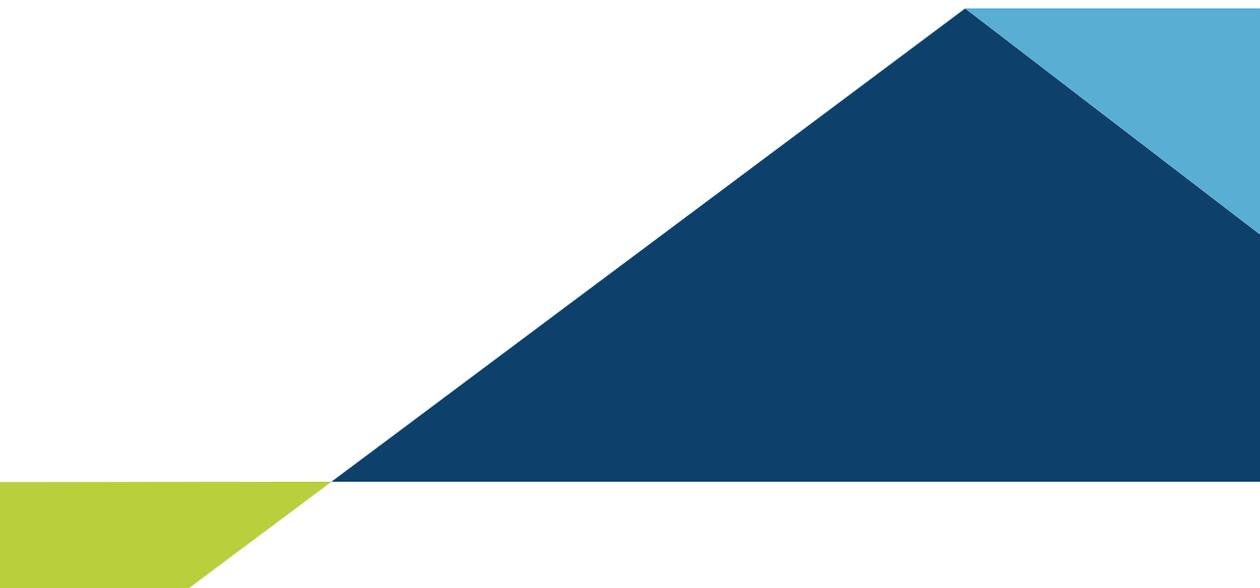
Fielding Turkish experts to Central Asian project sites will not only widen the expertise and knowledge of beneficiary countries in a variety of areas (e.g. agriculture, agribusiness, food security and nutrition, forestry, nature conservation, drought management, combating desertification, biodiversity and climate change), it will also help evolve solutions for common development issues in the food and agriculture sector.

This new initiative will support and facilitate the implementation of both the FAO-Türkiye Partnership Programme and the FAO-Türkiye Forestry Partnership Programme, and deepen decades-long relations between FAO and Türkiye. It will also widen FAO's involvement in South-South and Triangular Cooperation by mobilizing Türkiye's expertise in agriculture and food-related fields.

Project Symbol	Project Title	Recipient Countries	Budget (USD)	Start Date (d/m/y)	End Date (d/m/y)	Status
GCP/INT/340/TUR	Boosting Restoration, Income, Development, Generating Ecosystem Services-BRIDGES	Eritrea; Mauritania; Sudan	3 600 000	5/7/2018	31/12/2022	Ongoing
GCP/RER/062/TUR	Improving national food safety systems and regional cooperation	Azerbaijan; Kyrgyzstan; Republic of Moldova; Tajikistan; Türkiye	650 000	1/1/2021	31/12/2023	Ongoing
GCP/SEC/013/TUR	Capacity Building for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Management in Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Türkiye-FISHCap	Azerbaijan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan; Türkiye; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan	1 000 000	1/1/2020	31/12/2022	Ongoing
GCP/SEC/014/TUR	Improving efficiency of small ruminants production for reduction of the GHG emission intensity	Azerbaijan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan; Türkiye; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan	1 100 000	1/04/2021	31/03/2024	Ongoing
GCP/SEC/015/TUR	Reduction of Food Loss and Waste in the in Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Türkiye	Azerbaijan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan; Türkiye; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan	1 500 000	1/11/2019	31/10/2022	Ongoing
GCP/SEC/016/TUR	Strengthening regional collaboration and national capacities for management of wheat rust diseases	Azerbaijan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan; Türkiye; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan	1 067 000	1/1/2020	31/12/2024	Ongoing
GCP/SEC/017/TUR	Support the transformation of Economic Cooperation Organization Food Security Coordination Centre	Afghanistan; Azerbaijan; Iran; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan; Pakistan; Türkiye; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan	500 000	1/1/2020	31/12/2022	Ongoing

Project Symbol	Project Title	Recipient Countries	Budget (USD)	Start Date (d/m/y)	End Date (d/m/y)	Status
GCP/SEC/018/TUR	“Leaving no one behind”: greater involvement and empowerment of rural women in Türkiye and Central Asia	Tajikistan; Türkiye; Uzbekistan	950 000	1/2/2021	31/1/2024	Ongoing
GCP/SEC/019/TUR	Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Cooperation Centre for Sustainable Food Systems	BSEC Countries	500 000	1/8/2020	31/7/2023	Ongoing
GCP/SEC/020/TUR	Enhancing Visibility of the FAO-Türkiye Partnership Programmes (FTFP II and FTFP)	Türkiye	400 000	1/10/2020	30/09/2023	Ongoing
GCP/SEC/022/TUR	Enhancing agricultural land market development to address land abandonment and improve land consolidation procedures	Azerbaijan; Türkiye; Uzbekistan	710 000	1/9/2021	28/2/2025	Ongoing
GCP/SEC/021/TUR	Forest Restoration Improvement for Environmental Development and Sustainability (FRIENDS)	Azerbaijan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Uzbekistan	2 000 000	1/4/2022	31/3/2025	Ongoing
To be identified	Strengthening Collaboration between FAO and MAF through Enhancing the Capacity of the International Forestry Training Centre	Azerbaijan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan; Türkiye; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan	1 000 000	36 months		Upcoming
To be identified	Improving Biodiversity and Sustainable Forestry	Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan; Uzbekistan	3 300 000	36 months		Upcoming
To be identified	Building Capacities through South-South Cooperation (SSTC)	Building Capacities through South-South Cooperation (SSTC)	100 000	36 months		Upcoming







REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
AND FORESTRY

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