

Working together

I S S U E

6

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Improving agriculture in Africa by supporting farmers and NEPAD

More than 70 percent of poor people in Africa live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their food and livelihood. Yet all too often farmers do not have access to the assets they need to make the most of agriculture, such as improved seeds and fertilizers or an adequate water supply. They lack information about markets and technologies that improve farming, fishing and livestock herding.

IFAD, FAO and WFP are assisting the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to chart a course to develop agriculture, trade and market access in African nations that will address these constraints. NEPAD is also listening to the voices of farmers themselves, because they are in the best position to identify the most pressing problems at hand and propose effective solutions.

All three agencies helped NEPAD to produce the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), a policy document that identifies the difficulties African nations must overcome to reduce poverty and hunger. The document focuses on three main areas: extending the land area under cultivation using sustainable farming methods and adequate water supply; improving rural infrastructure and access to markets; and increasing



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the food supply to reduce hunger. Continued collaborations with NEPAD representatives are helping to translate this document into actual initiatives. IFAD has also sent a rural development specialist to the NEPAD Secretariat in South Africa to provide further assistance.

IFAD supports the Network of Farmers' Organizations and Agricultural Producers in West Africa (ROPPA), which brings farmers together to discuss the rural and agricultural policies proposed by NEPAD. In 2003 and 2004, IFAD and FAO lent a hand in organizing a series of regional consultations in Africa where farmers developed their own vision of African agriculture.

Farmers' organizations from different sub-regions of Africa participated in these consultations, including the Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers and the *Concertation Nationale des Organisations Paysannes* from Cameroon. Ideas and opinions were compiled into a single document outlining a shared view on the future of agriculture. The resulting document describes agriculture as a sustainable activity that takes into account not only economic concerns, but also social and ecological issues. For instance, farmers point out that in much of Africa, agriculture is a family business. Small family enterprises may not be able to comply with the rules and regulations required for participation in the global marketplace.

Instead, farmers believe that agricultural policies must encourage the production and use of local products and should focus on increasing access to markets at the national and regional levels in Africa. This would include constructing better roads, increasing access to water and improving medical facilities. These efforts would contribute to a better quality of life for farmers and could eventually help Africa to become food self-sufficient.

IFAD is also developing a support programme for partnership building, which will help NEPAD involve its civil society partners in project design. Ensuring the participation of these partners, including farmers' organizations and the private sector, will be a key factor in achieving NEPAD's goals.



WFP / M. Di Bari



Responding to the African orphan crisis

Across southern Africa, the number of orphans is growing at an alarming rate. More and more children are traumatized, destitute and unable to fend for themselves.

In Mozambique alone, there are an estimated 470,000 AIDS orphans. In total, more than 1.5 million children have lost one or both of their parents (Children on the Brink 2004). Most of these extremely vulnerable children face a bleak future without the skills, knowledge or assets they would need to provide adequately for themselves and their siblings.

Despite all this, a fortunate few can now look to the future with an increasing degree of hope, thanks to an innovative joint project in central Mozambique run by FAO and WFP in collaboration with the ministries of education, agriculture and social welfare.

While FAO's Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) programme provides orphans and vulnerable children with crucial farming and life skills, WFP supplies nutritious daily meals, ensuring that children have an incentive to turn up at school and the energy to participate.

“One of the most encouraging developments over the past year has been watching the children grow more confident,” says Lynne Miller, head of WFP's central Mozambique programme. “They completed a one-year course and are now experts of their own fields. It is a remarkable turn-around and it's all due to our successful joint programme with FAO.”

The JFFLS programme is a specially adapted combination of two popular FAO teaching projects aimed at adults – the Farmer Field School, which teaches farmers about agricultural strategies for improving their food and livelihood security, and the Farmer Life School, which helps farmers learn to analyse how their behaviour exposes them to HIV/AIDS and other risks.

The JFFLS are led by facilitators (extension workers, school teachers and social animators) and volunteers, who help children learn by observation, following a season cycle as a ‘living classroom’. In the end, children are empowered and able to perform their own field research and draw their own conclusions about the performance of various farming methods. The JFFLS programme enhances children's self-esteem and teaches them life skills by having them participate in theatre and dance performances on themes such as children's rights, equality between men and women and HIV/AIDS prevention.

“The JFFLS prove that there are practical responses to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS . We are learning that JFFLS offers an unprecedented opportunity for transmission of agricultural knowledge and life skills among the vulnerable rural children who would otherwise have been marginalized and fallen out of the normal social safety net,” says Marcela Villarreal, FAO focal point for HIV/AIDS.

To support the project, WFP provides nutritious meals to the children at the centres twice a day, consisting of 150 g of cereals, 50 g of pulses, 10 ml of vitamin A enriched vegetable oil, and 3 g of iodized salt.



Food plays a crucial role in the success of the JFFLS programme by acting as a powerful incentive for orphans and vulnerable children to attend. Each child receives two nutritious meals a day, and their relatives and foster families do not need to provide for them on those days, easing the burden on overstretched household resources.



FAO / G. Bizzarri

WFP has also contributed items to help with the construction of warehouses and kitchens at project sites, as well as some agricultural tools on an ad hoc basis.

FAO and WFP launched the pilot project last year, targeting 100 children in four JFFLS projects in the central Manica province. After the success of the pilot project, 28 additional schools were opened, with 30 orphans and vulnerable children attending each school. FAO and WFP are now establishing JFFLS in Kenya and Namibia.

In Mozambique, the new project sites were selected by a multisectoral team of officials from the provincial directorates of education, social welfare and agriculture, as well as WFP and FAO representatives. The team targeted areas that are food-insecure, have high rates of HIV infection and high numbers of orphaned children.

A number of lessons were learned from the pilot project. The most important improvement that was made based on lessons learned, was that some of the new round of JFFLS are now linked to formal primary schools. This serves to strengthen the ties between formal and informal schooling and ensures that all children enroll in the formal sector. In addition, even non-participating schoolchildren will now benefit from the JFFLS experience by interacting with those children who are participating.

“It’s a very interesting project because it addresses livelihood and food-security issues at the same time,” says WFP’s Lynne Miller. “We can feed the children to keep them alive, but this is one project that also aims to improve their chances of a brighter future.”

Modern farming methods help women and youth in Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, IFAD and WFP are co-financing a project to help rural poor people in the dry zones of the country, especially women, youth and people of low caste origin. The project will improve the living conditions of 80,000 families by improving rain-fed farming methods, modernizing irrigation, increasing access to savings and credit and enhancing market access.



WFP / R. Anderson

Maps in support of development, a common strategy



FAO, WFP and more recently the United Nations Environment Programme have combined their research and mapping expertise to develop a common strategy to effectively share their spatial databases including digital maps, satellite images and related statistics. The three agencies make extensive use of computer-based data visualization tools, known as Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) software, mostly to create maps that combine layers of information. GeoNetwork provides them with the capacity to access a wide selection of maps and other spatial information stored in different databases around the world through a single entry point.

In 2001, FAO set up GeoNetwork, a facility that provides a global library for geospatial data. WFP's VAM soon joined FAO in the further development. Early 2004 the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) joined in the development, further strengthening the GeoNetwork OpenSource software and improving standardized access to spatial data and information.

A special feature of the GeoNetwork allows users to compose new customized maps with data originating from one or more servers. For example, it may map out how a region rich in agriculture but with a poor transport infrastructure, cannot realize its full potential.

GeoNetwork is released as a free, standards based Open Source software, maintained at <http://sourceforge.net/projects/geonetwork>



Access to temporal satellite databases – an FAO-ARTEMIS example

To predict areas affected by drought or desert locust plagues, satellite data provided through the FAO ARTEMIS program are used on a day-to-day basis. The ARTEMIS system collects satellite data from different resources and pre-processes these for the Early Warning Programmes to interpret. The FAO GIEWS, the Desert Locust Information Service of FAO and the WFP-VAM unit are among the major users of ARTEMIS data.

ARTEMIS is improving access to its satellite image databases, including new global, highly detailed images through GeoNetwork. Users can combine satellite images with other map resources through the Web, performing basic analysis at no cost. It will also allow the more advanced users to extract data for use in their own analytical systems. The transition to this standards based environment should be completed in early 2005.

Users of GeoNetwork are currently able to find and use a wide variety of FAO spatial data. The addition of the ARTEMIS databases will further boost the content and thus usability of spatial data and tools to support a more informed decision making process.

The FAO Geonetwork can be found at: <http://www.fao.org/geonetwork>

GeoNetwork is an example of a successful collaboration between three UN agencies - UNEP, WFP and FAO. Collaboration with other UN agencies and research institutes is evolving strongly to ensure even more effective and comprehensive sharing of geographic information in the fields of agriculture, environmental assessment, natural resources management, food security and emergency operations.

Mapping where the most vulnerable live - a WFP-VAM example

To better understand what makes people and regions vulnerable to food insecurity, WFP's Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping Unit (VAM) assesses food security and vulnerability in a country before, during and after a food crisis.

VAM provides up-to-date information identifying the hungry, why they are vulnerable, and where to target food aid. In order to do this, the unit relies on a variety of sources such as satellite images showing agro-climatic conditions and a vast range of data collected from reports and interviews with the people affected by food insecurity.

Identifying pockets of vulnerable communities, tracking refugee movements, or locating food resources, is often more effectively communicated through the use of maps rather than texts, tables or charts. GeoNetwork has become the primary tool for VAM to capture, store, manipulate, locate, analyze and represent spatial information.

The WFP VAM-Spatial Information Environment can be found at: <http://vam.wfp.org/geonetwork>

Joining forces to reduce poverty in Latin America

Over the last decade, poverty levels in Latin America and the Caribbean have remained almost unchanged; 80 million people remained poor in the late 1990s. In response, IFAD, FAO and other development partners have created the Inter-Agency Working Group for Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The group strives to improve coordination, including financial support, between partners. By working together, they become more effective in their effort to strengthen agricultural policy, modernize farming, develop rural finance, better manage natural resources, boost training opportunities and diversify income-generating methods for small farmers.



New website shares knowledge about rural finance



FAO / C. Shirley

Access to savings, loans and other financial services is critical for the rural poor, because it enables them to manage their assets and generate income. But it is not easy for banks and other institutions to gear financial services to the needs of rural poor people while making sure the practice is sustainable. At the same time, the rural poor need to learn more about financial management, allowing them to make informed decisions about the money they earn, borrow and save. Better information can help both financial institutions and the disadvantaged people they are trying to help navigate the world of rural finance.

In collaboration with other partners, IFAD and FAO have developed the Rural Finance Learning Centre (www.ruralfinance.org). This online reference centre contains a wealth of information for managers of rural finance institutions, policy makers, and clients. It is organized so that each of the three types of users can easily access topics most relevant to their particular needs and interests.

The Learning Centre provides resources to assist rural financial institutions to take decisions about loan applications, particularly from agricultural based households that are complicated by farming's long production cycles and high levels of yield and price risk. Cutting transaction



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costs is also addressed – a critical issue for institutions located in remote areas. They face higher costs because they serve a population scattered over large distances and have limited access to roads and communication networks.

The website examines policy concerns, exploring how governments influence financial markets and the development of rural finance services. Information for donors is also available, providing guidance on the best way to aid the development of rural financial markets and services.

The richest section of the site is one devoted to training and capacity-building, aimed at increasing the financial literacy of poor communities so they can make the most of the money they earn and learn new ways to make it grow. Teaching materials can provide the financial literacy necessary to open doors to increased income and well-being. For instance, a non-governmental organization may download a presentation on how to write a feasibility study as a first step to helping a group launch a new business. A women's cooperative can find a training course on bookkeeping and budgeting.

A broad range of teaching materials is a click away, including hand-outs, exercises and facilitator's guides; many of them are free. It also contains a searchable database of references, providing lists of books, papers, case studies, guidelines, training manuals as well as multimedia products such as videos and CD-ROMs. Many FAO publications are cited, for instance a glossary of rural finance terms and a resource book for dairy producers.

The site also hosts online discussions. An organization that teaches business skills to rural poor women, for instance, can log on to learn about what other groups are doing, share strategies for problem solving or discuss training services. Other recent topics include micro-enterprise development and how to best market farm goods.

The site also lists upcoming events and important news in the world of rural finance. The Learning Centre is available in English, French and Spanish.



New website to increase political will to fight hunger

IFAD and WFP are providing financial support to FAO to launch a multilingual website on the International Alliance Against Hunger. In 2002, in the final declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, participants called for the creation of the Alliance and it became the theme for World Food Day in 2003. The Alliance aims to strengthen collaboration among the many groups committed to fighting hunger, including food producers and consumers, international organizations, governments, agribusinesses, scientists, academics, private individuals, policy-makers, religious groups and non-governmental organizations. The website will be part of the FAO's web pages. It will contain information on related IFAD and WFP initiatives and will link to their home pages.

Assessing needs in emergencies

In countries facing a serious emergency, WFP and FAO carry out joint Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions (CFSAMs) at the request of the government. Their purpose is to provide timely and reliable information so that appropriate actions can be taken by affected governments, the international community and other parties.

WFP and FAO undertake about 20-30 CFSAMs a year. In 2004 alone, the two agencies carried out 24 missions worldwide, including Sudan, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Haiti and Afghanistan. CFSAMs are intended to assess national food supply/demand deficits, and the extent of needs of vulnerable groups. These joint missions have proved that food emergencies occur in complex economic, social and political contexts. Addressing them effectively requires sophisticated analytical and targeting instruments.

Members of CFSAMs estimate the amount of production shortfalls that need to be offset by commercial imports or food aid to maintain the apparent per capita consumption at historical levels. They also assess the food assistance needs of vulnerable groups; these are not necessarily equal to the overall food shortage nationwide.

The WFP - FAO cooperation is based, to a high degree, on the fact that both agencies combine different but complementary methodologies to deal with the overall issue of food insecurity. This is done by learning to distinguish between transitional and chronic food insecurity, for instance, and by basing collaboration on maximized use of their comparative advantages. Currently this is made possible, often with donor support, by jointly developing work plans, conducting workshops, evaluations and analytical studies commissioned by expert consultants and by carrying out repeat field tests.

WFP and FAO each have particular expertise needed in emergency situations. While WFP rushes in emergency food aid, FAO provides agricultural inputs such as seeds, tools, livestock vaccines, as needed.



WFP / R. Skullerud



Teaming up to increase field presence

IFAD is increasing its presence in developing countries to enhance project implementation, while at the same time contributing to partnership-building, knowledge management and policy dialogue. This includes collaboration with FAO and WFP in sharing field offices. In Mozambique and Tanzania, an IFAD Liaison Officer has been recruited by FAO and is based at the FAO field office. In India, IFAD and WFP are setting up a joint field office and will share expenses and services of a senior officer as well as support staff. This builds on a partnership started in 2001 when WFP's office in Delhi provided support to IFAD projects.

Turning poachers into cultivators

A Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) project in eastern Zambia's game-rich Luangwa valley is helping to transform poachers into farmers and entrepreneurs.

The key is the use of food aid in persuading poachers to turn in their guns and join conservation Farmer/Wildlife Producer Training Centers (CTCs), established by WCS to teach sustainable farming methods. WCS is linked to the Bronx Zoo in New York.

"I used to kill an average of seven elephants in a week," said Royd Kachali of Manga Village, in the Luangwa Valley. Now Kachali is one of 98 people who have taken up farming in an area previously notorious for poachers.

Rainfall in the Luangwa Valley is erratic, and poverty has historically forced people into poaching, a high-risk occupation that requires staying one step ahead of armed patrols sent out by Zambia's National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Through a "food-for-better-farming" initiative, set up in 2001, WCS uses WFP relief aid, combined with FAO tools and seeds to improve output and raise farmers' profits.

In the Luangwa Valley, farmers' groups representing over 30,000 people have been formed and registered with CTCs, which then provide agricultural training and basic marketing, accounting and business management skills.

Conservation farming aims to meet the challenges of declining soil fertility and recurrent drought in semi-arid regions by using a range of soil and water conserving technologies.

"We have seen some excellent results," says Jo Woods, an information officer at WFP. "Conservation farming methods are paying

off and production has increased. Locally based trading centres have been created and farmer groups are consolidating farm production into single production units to save on transport costs and attract higher-end trading partners."

"Because the increased profit goes to the farmer directly, they have become more committed to better farming practices, and becoming increasingly self-reliant."

Masautso Banda, the district administrative officer in Lundazi, on Zambia's eastern border with Malawi, praised the initiative.

"The WCS poacher transformation programme is the greatest thing that has ever happened in Lundazi and the valley communities. It is not easy to convert a poacher into a farmer," he said.

WCS-established trade centres have provided new markets for the farmers' produce and Lundazi was ready to reap the more sustainable rewards of its wildlife through eco-tourism, according to Banda.

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FAO / M. Boulton



FAO / G. Diana

Building demand-driven extension and rural services in Pakistan

The IFAD-financed Community Development Programme (CDP) is a seven-year project that will provide support to 4,000 community groups in rural areas of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan. The CDP uses an interactive approach, promoting the involvement of women and the poor. CDP activities include savings and credit schemes, development of the social and economic infrastructure, and strengthening of natural resources management.

Within the CDP framework, FAO will provide a range of services over a three-year period, all aimed at capacity-building. The services will include training, technical assistance and the procurement of certain types of equipment.

The objective of the FAO services provided through a Unilateral Trust Fund Agreement (UTF) is to institutionalize a collaborative and demand-driven approach to the provision of extension and other rural services in support of community development throughout the State of Jammu and Kashmir. These services consist of four components:



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- increasing the capacity of community organizations to identify development opportunities and access relevant services;
- enhancing the ability of government agencies to provide demand-driven services that are relevant to the needs of community organizations;
- building stakeholder collaboration at district level; and
- strengthening the capacity of the Programme Management Unit and District Project Offices to manage the IFAD-funded Community Development Programme.

The UTF Agreement includes a demand-driven approach to the provision of technical assistance and training activities. Community organizations, NGOs and line departments will be encouraged to submit proposals that will be appraised and funded under UTF. The UTF Agreement also includes some pre-determined inputs aimed at strengthening management information systems, the production of extension materials and the provision of advice aimed at enhancing benefits for women.

Educational workshops will be carried out in all seven districts of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to promote collaboration between Government and NGO service providers.

Joint WFP/FAO school gardening competition



SYDJERIL / PANAPRESS

School gardens

Collaboration between FAO and WFP's school feeding unit has led jointly supported programmes that enable school garden initiatives to be linked with ongoing school feeding programmes:

- national school garden projects, are linked to ongoing WFP supported school feeding, developed and submitted for FAO's TCP and/or donor support for Mozambique, Sri Lanka (jointly with UNICEF) Rwanda, Burkina Faso; and others under development for Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia and Cape Verde;
- in Republic of Congo, Cape Verde and in Guantanamo province of Cuba, FAO's Telefood support provided for school garden micro-projects in many schools involved in WFP-supported school feeding projects; and
- FAO and WFP field offices are equipped with jointly developed information packages to support promotion and formulation of joint projects linking school feeding with school gardens, and emphasizing the educational opportunities offered by garden-based learning.

15 July 2004 was an historic day for the children of Mpasazi School in Malawi. On that day they won the first ever WFP/FAO School Gardening Competition.

Touring all ten competing schools, the four judges spent hours carefully studying each garden. Basing their decision on a wide range of criteria, including productivity, crop diversity, general layout, pupil participation and creativity, the panel eventually opted for Mpasazi, rewarding the school with an array of agricultural tools and other supplies.

The idea for a competition was first proposed in May by volunteers from TNT/TPG, the global mail, express and logistics company that has entered into a partnership with WFP. Working for three months with WFP in Malawi, the volunteers proposed the competition as a means to increase awareness of the WFP/FAO School Gardens programme and the quality of existing gardens.

Seizing on the concept, FAO and WFP agreed that the initial competition would be restricted to Kasungu District but that all schools in the district would be eligible to enter, either because they boasted WFP/FAO-supported gardens or had pre-existing gardens of their own. Eventually, ten schools participated in the competition.

One of the primary purposes of the competition was to raise public awareness of the WFP/FAO School Gardens programme and its success. The school gardens pilot project was launched in January 2004 in 40 schools in five districts - Nkhata Bay, Kasungu, Thyiolo, Chikwawa and Nsanje.

As part of the project, WFP provides food to pupils at the schools: 150 g per student per day of Likuni Phala – a nutritious blended food. WFP also gives additional food rations to girls and orphan boys to take home, as long as they attend at least 18 days of school a month. The take-home ration consists of 12.5 – 16.7 kg of maize per pupil, depending on age, and 5 kg of beans per month.

FAO provides technical expertise and crucial agricultural supplies, such as tools and seeds.

The joint project aims to provide additional nutrition to schoolchildren by growing vegetables, fruits and maize, aiming to enhance their agricultural knowledge and understanding.

“Through the school garden pilot projects vegetables are now produced in areas where they are normally not available at all and the children's diet is dramatically improved,” said Gerard van Dijk, WFP Country Director in Malawi.



SYDJERIL / PANAPRESS

Rehabilitation of roads

One of the most effective and tangible ways to promote rural development is spot-repair and rehabilitation of existing farm-to-market roads. A serviceable road gives farmers access to local and regional markets, thereby improving income-generating opportunities and access to health-care and school facilities, and promoting participation in municipal decision-making.



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Tanzania

In Tanzania, WFP is contributing to IFAD's Participatory Irrigation Development Programme by providing participants with food in exchange for working on road construction. As of April 2004, 225 km of roads linking villages to markets are under construction. As part of the programme, WFP supplied 803 mt of maize, 125 mt of pulses and 62.5 tons of cooking oil for distribution in exchange for work.

Democratic Republic of Congo

To open up markets for rural inhabitants in the Democratic Republic of Congo, FAO has used funds provided by the governments of Sweden and Italy to support the rehabilitation of 300 km of small roads close to Kinshasa, Kikwit, Mbanza, Ngungu, Mvuazi, Kisangani and Goma.

Congolese companies were contracted to do construction work and a local work force was paid not with money, but with food rations provided by WFP administered by an Italian NGO.

When the road reconstruction was finished, FAO distributed vegetable seeds, watering cans and insecticides to beneficiaries in the vicinity of

the roads. Soon the benefits of the reconstructed road network became apparent: traffic, commerce and incomes increased, food prices went down,



WFP / J. Abrahamson

In brief



WFP / R. Skullerud

Promoting medicinal, aromatic and dye plants in South Asia

In early 2005, FAO, the Ford Foundation and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) will start implementing a project to promote organic production, processing, certification and marketing of medicinal, aromatic and dye plants (MADPs) in India, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka using a US\$3.6 million grant from IFAD.

FAO will have overall project management and implementation responsibility for activities in Bhutan and southern India. Activities in Sri Lanka and northern India will be managed by IDRC.



IFAD / ????????

Study shows progress in improving women's access to land

IFAD, FAO and the International Land Coalition have published findings on the progress made in improving women's access to land, including women's rights to inherit property. The study was based on country reports submitted as part of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). To see the study, go to www.landcoalition.org/main_re.html.



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Strengthening collaboration in Asia

Since 1996, IFAD has co-financed all of its projects in China with WFP. It has also worked with WFP in other Asian countries, including Cambodia, India and Laos. To build on this existing collaboration, representatives from the two organizations held a regional workshop in Bangkok on 21 January 2004. One result was a Memorandum of Understanding to develop an integrated development approach using WFP food aid combined with IFAD financial assistance. The representatives also agreed to use WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping to target joint projects and to enhance WFP administrative and logistical support for joint missions.

Teaching new skills to women and youth in Albania

As part of IFAD's Knowledge Generation and Skills Development Project, rural women are learning tailoring in the Hasi district of northeastern Albania, one of the poorest areas of the country. WFP is providing food to the women during the three-month course. During the crisis in nearby Kosovo, pastures became studded with mines, making them too dangerous for farming. This course is teaching new skills so families can diversify ways in which to generate income. Young adults are also learning new skills such as stone cutting.



WFP / M. Turner

WFP / P. Turnbull



Women's groups are the focus of rural development in Yemen

In Yemen, WFP is co-financing IFAD's Dhamar Participatory Rural Development Project. Subsistence farmers living in remote areas of the region are forming community groups to improve their quality of life. The farmers, particularly women, are learning to enhance farming methods, modernize irrigation systems and improve livestock care. WFP is paying for conservation efforts through a food-for-work programme. The work includes strengthening terraces, reforestation, rehabilitating grazing pastures and rebuilding the banks of river channels or *wadis*.



WFP / M. Sayagues

Empowering rural women in Guatemala

In Xibalbay, in Guatemala's Sololá Region, FAO and WFP are jointly supporting an irrigation system to improve food production and ensure food security for the local communities. The Sololá region was seriously affected by internal conflicts between 1970 and 1980; over three quarters of the people live in poverty. This project targets the most vulnerable groups, especially indigenous women. WFP provides food-for-work, and FAO provides technical assistance. Women have been empowered and are fully involved in all processes. The project has boosted participants' confidence and pride, which will help to ensure sustainability. This model of WFP-FAO collaboration was strongly commended by members of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP who visited the project.



Different mandates ... a common vision

FAO was founded in 1945 with a mandate to raise nutritional levels and living standards, improve agricultural productivity and better the conditions of rural people. **FAO** is the lead agency for technical expertise in food security, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development, and in the sustainable management of natural resources essential over the long term.



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IFAD was established in 1977 to help developing countries fight rural poverty and hunger by mobilizing financial resources for rural and agricultural development. IFAD enables rural poor people to overcome poverty by: strengthening their capacity and that of their organizations; improving equitable access to productive natural resources and technology; and increasing access to financial services and markets.



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WFP, the food agency of the United Nations system, was created in 1963. It provides food aid to save lives in emergency situations, improve the nutrition and quality of life of the most vulnerable people at critical times in their lives, help build infrastructural assets and promote the self-reliance of poor people and communities.



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