



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# FAO Philippines and the Sustainable Development Goals

On 25 September 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – including 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – committing the international community to end poverty and hunger and achieve sustainable development over 15 years (2016-2030).

In the Philippines, FAO's programmes and projects are already well-aligned with the SDGs.



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FAO's broad priorities in the 2030 Agenda are to end poverty, hunger and malnutrition, enable sustainable development in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, and combat and adapt to climate change.



Food and agriculture are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. Both the SDGs and FAO's strategic objectives are geared towards tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger, building a fairer society and leaving no one behind.

Working for #ZeroHunger

# Addressing the socio-economic dimensions of food insecurity and poverty through agriculture



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## End poverty in all its forms everywhere

In the Philippines, poverty is widespread in rural areas. Farmers, fishers and indigenous peoples are among the poorest and most marginalized members of the population. More than the lack of income and resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods, they also lack opportunities and capabilities in many interlinked areas, which further keep them in a cycle of poverty.

FAO continues its mission to help eradicate poverty in the country by promoting investments in rural development and improving agriculture-based livelihoods that can be drivers of inclusive and equitable growth. FAO activities are equipping beneficiaries with skills and tools that will help them increase their yield, minimize post-harvest losses, add value to their products and tap larger markets while contributing to environmental sustainability and economic growth. FAO is also working with the Government to ensure that policies support fair agribusiness transactions and that the rights of the marginalized are upheld. Livelihood recovery assistance is also provided to agricultural households affected by disasters to help them bounce back quicker and have the means to rise out of poverty once and for all.

## 1 NO POVERTY



## End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Supporting the country to ensure that adequate, nutritious and affordable food continues to be available and accessible to a growing population of Filipinos is one of FAO's most important mandates. Agriculture is of course central to achieving zero hunger. To address this monumental challenge, FAO is working with the Government and various partners to transform food and agriculture systems so that farmers and fishers can produce more, using less resources, even under changing climate conditions.

FAO Philippines has been at the forefront of promoting climate-smart technologies in addition to investing in more efficient and automated systems and technologies for data collection

## 2 ZERO HUNGER



and analysis to support evidenced-based decision-making on food and nutrition security and disaster response. FAO's expertise has also been tapped for national, regional and local-level planning, in controlling the outbreak of pests, and in restoring food security in disaster and conflict-stricken areas.

## 5 GENDER EQUALITY



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

When rural women have equal access as men to productive resources, there is an increase in agricultural output and a significant reduction in the number of poor and hungry people. FAO Philippines is committed to integrating gender issues in all its activities to ensure equality between men and women.

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

While the agriculture sector in the Philippines employs a third of the labour force, farmers and fishers often generate the lowest wages and suffer from erratic income flows. FAO's role in improving rural agricultural livelihoods is therefore crucial in achieving inclusive development in the countryside.

## 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reduce inequality within and among countries

FAO has been partnering with Government agencies, civil society and non-government organizations to ensure that farmers, fishers, indigenous peoples, displaced populations, especially women and the youth, are able to improve and protect their lives and livelihoods. Ensuring that they gain fair access to productive resources, skills and tools is among the priorities of FAO in the country. This is also emphasized in FAO's approach to Accountability to Affected Populations.

## 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development

Peace and food security are often mutually reinforcing. FAO's work, especially in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao, have a critical part in supporting the Government's peacebuilding efforts, in restoring livelihoods, building resilience, strengthening governance and participatory approaches to policymaking.

## Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Strengthening the capacity of farmers and fishers to move towards more sustainable patterns of production is becoming more urgent as the demand for food increases while resources for production become more limited. How to enable them to produce more while reducing negative environmental impacts is one of the challenges that FAO Philippines, along with the Government and the academia are solving together. Consumers must also be encouraged to shift to nutritious and safe diets with a lower environmental footprint.

FAO's technical experts are finding and promoting ways to make agriculture and fisheries more efficient and sustainable so that it can support the country's multiple development objectives. Key interventions include the Regional Rice Initiative, which promotes methods to reduce the cost of producing rice while increasing yield. FAO has also been supporting the aquaculture sector to produce more fish, which accounts for over 12 percent of the animal protein intake of Filipino families. The Organization is likewise addressing diseases in marine species and developing more cost-effective and optimal feed formulations for fish production, helping control coconut pest outbreaks, and backstopping local governments in planning and implementing coastal resource management strategies while providing better livelihood alternatives for coastal residents.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Crop and livestock production are responsible for a large percentage of water withdrawals in developing countries, including the Philippines. As Filipinos gain more access to better incomes, dietary trends also point to an increase in consumption of food that requires more water to be produced, like meat.

FAO is working with farmers and the Government to help ensure that water use in agriculture is made more efficient, productive, equitable and environmentally friendly. This involves, among others, training farmers on sustainable water management, as well as how they can cope with floods and droughts. FAO also helps remote communities gain access to water both for household use and to irrigate their crops. Forest and landscape restoration efforts are also linked to watershed management.

# Enabling sustainable food systems

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and clean energy for all

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Modern food systems are heavily dependent on fossil fuels, consuming about 30 percent of the world's available energy and producing more than 20 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

To deliver more food with less and cleaner energy, food and agriculture systems will gradually need to decouple from fossil fuel dependence, and embrace renewable energy sources. The Philippines is among the partner countries in an FAO project that seeks to formulate regional and national bioenergy and food security mainstreaming strategies in ASEAN to ensure more effective energy services with minimal or no impact on food security and the environment.



# Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Climate change is no longer a distant threat. The strong typhoons and droughts that hit the Philippines in recent years gave a preview of the severe implications it will continue to have on the agriculture sector and related issues of national interest such as food security, economic growth and the eradication of rural poverty.

In spite of being one of the most disaster-prone countries, the Philippines remains to be a leading example in building institutional capacities for managing and reducing risks to natural hazards and climate change. FAO is a proud partner in building resilience in the agriculture sector.

Moving forward with its adaptation agenda, the country is working with FAO to improve strategic climate risk management and accelerate the uptake of medium- and long-term risk reduction practices across the policy level, the agriculture industry and down to farming and fishing communities. Current activities build on the results of several resilience projects jointly implemented by FAO and the Department of Agriculture since 2009, including climate change adaptation capacity-building in the Cordilleras; analysis and mapping of impacts under climate change for adaptation and food security; climate risk management strengthening in the Bicol Region; and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy for agriculture and fisheries, among others.

## 13 CLIMATE ACTION



## Healthy ecosystems protect the planet and sustain livelihoods

Land use changes, including deforestation, result in a loss of valuable habitats, a decrease in clean water, land degradation, soil erosion and the release of carbon into the atmosphere. They contribute to the loss of valuable economic assets and livelihood opportunities.

In the Philippines, FAO has been working with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Agrarian Reform on the sustainable management of all types of forests and in strengthening capacities for land tenure governance and land management. The FAO approach emphasizes the importance of engaging local communities, recognizing their crucial role in shaping landscapes.



# Adapting to climate and environmental change



## 14 LIFE BELOW WATER



## Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Especially in an archipelago like the Philippines, fisheries and aquaculture offer ample opportunities to reduce hunger and improve nutrition, alleviate poverty, generate economic growth and ensure better use of natural resources.

FAO initiatives in the country focus on the management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems through the formulation and implementation of science-based fisheries resource management plans. FAO is also actively supporting the aquaculture sub-sector through the Blue Growth Initiative, which aims to harmonise the environmental, social and economic aspects of living aquatic resources to ensure equitable benefits for communities. It balances growth and conservation, and industrial and small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.



## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The complexity and interconnectedness of the SDGs call for a new way of doing business, requiring all development actors to engage and share knowledge in supporting countries to implement and monitor the SDGs.

FAO continues to successfully pursue its mandates in the Philippines by working proactively with partners in the Government, NGOs, technical agencies, other UN agencies, the private sector, academia and research institutions, community-based organizations and producer groups, among others. Partnerships also make it possible to mobilize the best available knowledge and capacities and provide the most effective services in working towards common goals.

## FAO Representation in the Philippines

14th Floor North Tower Rockwell Business Center Sheridan  
Corner Sheridan and United Streets, 1554 Mandaluyong City Philippines

Email: [FAO-PH@fao.org](mailto:FAO-PH@fao.org) | Twitter: [@FAOPhilippines](https://twitter.com/FAOPhilippines)

[www.fao.org/philippines](http://www.fao.org/philippines) | [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)



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