

Agricultural and Rural Development



*Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), strongly associated goals are shown.

Contributing to Food Security through Sustainable and Inclusive Agriculture and Fisheries

Overview of the Issue

Food production is prone to the natural environment, including the weather and pests, as well as to the social environment, most notably fluctuating prices of agricultural produce and agricultural production materials. In developing countries with vulnerable production, distribution, and other systems, this vulnerability can lead directly to a food crisis, thus taking a heavy toll on the urban poor and small-scale farmers and fishers in rural areas. Meanwhile, agriculture and fisheries supply food and constitute the largest sector of industry in the world, accounting for 30% of the global working population, or more than 40% of the workforce in South Asia and over 50% in Sub-Saharan Africa.¹ In short, they support the employment and income of the poor in the developing world.

Fulfilling the food demand of developing countries and the world at large requires boosting the productivity and income of small-scale farmers and fishers in developing countries. It is thus necessary to build inclusive farming and fishing communities, which can be achieved through a combination of approaches. These may include (1) introducing sustainable farming and fishing methods, (2) disseminating improved varieties, (3) developing farming and fishing infrastructure, (4) adding more value to agricultural and marine products, (5) reinforcing the means of food safety and assurance, and (6) providing financial and insurance services for better access to these means for farmers and fishers.

On the food security front, more than 800 million people still do not have sufficient access to food and nutrition. Regional disparities remain huge as well.² Natural disasters stemming from climate change are exacerbating these problems, underscoring the need to bolster the resilience of the agricultural sector. Among other pressing issues are (1) the deprivation of soil fertility and overfishing in response to growing food demand, (2) the prevalence of animal diseases associated with increasing demand for livestock products, and (3) the establishment of sustainable management and use of fishery resources.

JICA Activities

To enhance food security, it is essential to ensure synergies among the development goals included in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Toward contributing to Goal 2 of the SDGs (Zero Hunger), JICA aims to maximize the outcomes of cooperation by associating this particular goal with other goals.

Specific activities by JICA to this end include the following:

1. Toward Economic Growth

To achieve stable food supply and increased income for the



Indonesia: A farmers' group from West Java Province learning how to cultivate crystal guava under the Public-Private-Partnership Project for the Improvement of the Agriculture Product Marketing and Distribution System

agricultural producer, JICA is supporting (1) enhanced agricultural productivities by improving agricultural infrastructure and farm management, and (2) strengthening entire food value chains (FVC), which include agricultural production, processing, distribution, and consumption. In Southeast Asia, JICA's assistance focused on enhancing food safety and increasing value-addition to agricultural products. In Africa as well as in Latin America, JICA conducted surveys for achieving food security through strengthening FVCs.

In addition, JICA is deploying Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP)—an approach it has developed in cooperation with the Kenyan government—in a total of 33 countries in Africa, Latin America, South Asia, and the Middle East. In fiscal 2019, SHEP training was given to about 6,300 government officials and extension workers as well as to some 66,000 smallholders. Some countries are working with the International Fund for Agricultural Development or the World Bank or both to roll out SHEP in order to provide more farmers with access to quality extension services such as on-site training and farm management guidance, both by extension workers. The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), held in Yokohama, Japan in August 2019, issued the Joint Declaration for Achieving Better Lives of One Million Small-scale Farmers through the SHEP Approach. The declaration is aimed at improving the livelihoods of smallholders in the developing world.

2. Human-Centered Development through Nutrition Improvement

The Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA), in which JICA plays a leading role, involves ongoing activities aimed at supporting country-specific strategy planning as well as nutrition improvement through agriculture. These activities capitalize, where appropriate, on Japan's experiences in implementing livelihood improvement programs and other relevant initiatives.

In light of the experiences in these IFNA activities, the IFNA Yokohama Declaration 2019 was adopted on the occasion of

1. World Bank, World Development Indicators: Employment in agriculture (percent of total employment) (modeled ILO estimate), data retrieved March 1, 2020.

2. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "2019 The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World."

TICAD7 in 2019. The declaration called for expanding IFNA to cover all of Africa for improving the nutrition of 200 million children across the continent. Also during fiscal 2019, JICA launched nutrition improvement assistance for South Asia, which is home to the largest undernourished population in the world.

3. Response to Global Issues

(1) Support for the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)

CARD, launched in 2008, has already fulfilled its commitment to double rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa in 10 years. In light of the lingering wide gap between rice supply and demand, however, CARD countries asked JICA to continue its development cooperation for further boosting production.

In response, JICA is now supporting CARD2, the second round of the initiative aimed at further doubling rice production by 2030 by (1) promoting stable production in view of climate change, (2) developing the rice industry in partnership with the private sector, (3) improving domestic rice quality, and (4) improving the livelihood of farmers through building the farming system.

(2) Resilience to climate change

JICA aims to increase the resilience of the agricultural sector in areas prone to drought and other natural hazards. Its ongoing development cooperation to this end focuses on, among other things, (1) making water use more efficient by developing irrigation facilities and strengthening water users' associations; (2) developing and disseminating drought-tolerant varieties;



Viet Nam: A JICA counterpart measuring the length of a native pig under the Project for Establishment of Cryo-bank System for Vietnamese Native Pig Resources and Sustainable Production System to Conserve Bio-diversity

and (3) introducing weather index insurance—an agricultural insurance scheme that allows for prompt insurance payouts—in collaboration with nonlife insurers in Japan and partner countries.

(3) Sustainable management and use of fishery resources

JICA is extending technical cooperation projects for fishery resources management based on “co-management” in West Africa and Caribbean island nations. In the Pacific region, JICA is extending cooperation for developing the capacity to monitor and prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing with the use of satellites and other means.

(4) Livestock and animal health

Mainly in East and Central Asia, South Asia, and Africa, JICA is extending cooperation in (1) strengthening a veterinary education system that complies with international standards; and (2) controlling globally prevalent animal diseases and strengthening livestock food value chains in cooperation with international organizations.

3. International Food Policy Research Institute, “2016 Global Nutrition Report.”

Madagascar: Food and Nutrition Improvement Project

Joining hands with a wide range of stakeholders to improve nutrition through agriculture



On this day, a soup of cassava, a crop similar to sweet potato, is served in school lunch, which is a joy to pupils and a motivation for them to go to school.

Malnutrition is a serious problem in Madagascar, where 49% of children under the age of five suffer stunting. This marks the fifth highest stunting prevalence by country in the world.³

As part of the activities under the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA), JICA has been conducting a project aimed at improving nutrition through agriculture in this island nation since March 2019. Under this project, a JICA expert is actively working in the central highlands of Madagascar, where some 80% of the residents engage in farming. The expert's mission includes (1) exploring ways to increase the income of farmers and allowing them to use the additional income thus made possible in

order to purchase nutritious food; and (2) encouraging them to grow nutritious crops in kitchen gardening in order to improve the nutritional balance of their meals.

As nutrition improvement calls for an approach that cuts across different sectors such as health, agriculture, and water and sanitation, this multi-sectoral project involves cooperation with a wide range of organizations, including the National Office of Nutrition, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Health, all of Madagascar, among many others. The project shares some of the target areas with the World Bank, which is engaged in nutrition improvement and health promotion for expectant and nursing mothers, as well as children, in the country.