



Canada and FAO

Partnering to build resilience and food and nutrition security

Canada has long been an active and generous resource partner, working closely with FAO in support of a wide range of shared food security and agricultural development goals. Mutual priority themes include child and maternal nutrition, land tenure and resilience building – with much of Canada's recent cooperation with FAO having been in response to emergencies where host governments have prioritized FAO's recovery projects. Canadian expertise and staffing resources are also an important asset for FAO.

Canadian expertise supports forestry management

Canada supported development of the *Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines*. Developed at the request of member countries and coordinated by FAO, the guidelines are aimed at helping countries develop an integrated approach to fire management. They advise authorities and other stakeholder groups that fire-fighting should be an integral part of a coherent and balanced policy applied not only to forests but also across other land-uses.

Through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC), Canada collaborated with FAO and other partners in the organization of the International Wildland Fire Conference, held in Seoul, Korea, in October 2015. The topic is of increasing significance as climate change increases vegetation fire risks, with huge potential negative impacts on human lives, assets and natural resources.



2015 세계산불총회

INTERNATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE CONFERENCE
PYEONGCHANG, KOREA. 12-16 October 2015
www.wildfire2015.kr

Canadian cooperation policy and priority areas

Most of Canada's funding targets national programmes through multi-donor programmes and direct budgetary support to individual beneficiary countries. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), was subsumed into the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) in 2013, which is the main channel of aid funding.

Canadian cooperation assistance is currently focused on three priority areas, all of which are of direct relevance to FAO's mandate and strategic objectives – in particular the first area:

- Increasing food security
- Stimulating sustainable economic growth
- Securing the future of children and youth

In addition, three cross-cutting themes are integrated into all aid programmes and policies:

- Increasing environmental sustainability
- Promoting equality between women and men
- Helping to strengthen governance institutions and practices

Canada in emergencies

Canada provides important indirect support to FAO by funding the country's Civil Reserve, CANADEM. As a partner to UN agencies during rapid-onset humanitarian emergencies, CANADEM provides staff resources to FAO's emergency activities through a stand-by agreement.

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Partnering in support of the West Bank and Gaza Strip

Canada has been FAO's most dedicated resource partner in helping communities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip build a more food-secure future. Interventions address a wide range of major challenges such as a lack of access to land and other agricultural resources, declining profitability of herding livelihoods, soaring fodder prices and unsustainable coping strategies.

Canada's generous financial support has enabled thousands of families to restore their livelihoods and build resilience to further shocks. In recent years the Agency's support has focused on rural families at risk of losing their livelihood assets, including animals and small farms – often their only source of income.

One intervention supported the provision of emergency fodder rations and veterinary support. To ensure herders can provide for their animals in the future, Canada funds are also being used to increase domestic fodder production and water availability through the distribution of drought-tolerant shrubs and seeds, and the repair and construction of water cisterns. This support is helping livestock farmers increase their production, profits and product quality, as well as their chances of retaining access to land. Activities range from reintroducing artificial livestock insemination to supporting women dairy producers to improve the quality, hygiene and market-potential of homemade products. Importantly, Canada projects have a strong gender focus.

Partnering for food security in Honduras

Canada has been supporting FAO activities aimed at improving long-term food security for vulnerable households in the poorest municipalities in Honduras. Under the Canada-FAO Food Security Programme, target communities gained improved access to food and health services and were able to improve their nutritional status.

Activities have entailed the systematic implementation of sustainable natural resource management practices, including the substitution of ploughing with mulching and replacement of direct planting with natural tree regeneration in cropping areas. In addition, savings and loan groups and rural cooperatives have been established; household facilities, such as stoves, have been improved; kitchen gardens have been promoted; and improvements have been made in post-harvest grain storage and water source management.

Post-conflict recovery and growth in Sri Lanka

In 2009, Sri Lanka ended a 26-year civil conflict which affected hundreds of thousands of people. The hardest hit areas were the northern and eastern provinces, where most people earn a living from agriculture. The majority of displaced families have returned to their places of origin, but the conflict wiped out their homes and assets. Many lost family members, and about 15 percent of the households are now headed by women.

"Food security and adequate nutrition for all is where sustainable development starts."

José Graziano da Silva
FAO Director-General

Canada provided more than US\$4.2 million to fund an FAO recovery project designed to restore livelihoods and reduce the economic vulnerability of farmers and fishing communities in the Northern Province districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu. The project benefited more than 18 000 returnee farming and fisheries-based households in these three districts, which suffered significant damage – particularly during the final stage of the conflict.

With Canada's funding, FAO helped farmers expand and improve their agricultural production by supplying agricultural inputs such as fruit-tree seedlings and saplings, cattle and goats, as well as technical assistance and training. Fishing communities in Mullaitivu District were able to increase production and income through FAO-assisted improvements to fish landing sites and the provision of infrastructure and equipment, including canoes and fishing gear. Fish tanks were also restocked and training was provided on issues such as offshore fishing techniques and safety measures.

Further results included the establishment of critical infrastructure for state institutions and training for agricultural and fisheries extension services staff. At the community level, premises were also made available for the purpose of fishing society meetings and training as well as net mending and boat engine storage.

