

CHAPTER

2

**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)¹ is a UN specialized agency mandated to lead international efforts to defeat hunger and achieve food security for all. It offers a forum for all countries to discuss policy and negotiate agreements, and provides knowledge, information and technical support to policymakers and practitioners, particularly in the agricultural sector and in rural areas. The Organization helps developing countries and countries in transition optimize their food production practices to ensure that people, particularly rural populations, have regular access to sufficient, high-quality nutritious food to lead active, healthy lives and contribute to the growth of the world economy. FAO has an extensive presence at the field level and a longstanding collaboration with many agricultural and rural stakeholders.

FAO has a long-term interest in migration, as migration processes are closely related to the Organization's global goals of fighting hunger and food insecurity, reducing poverty and promoting agricultural and rural development and the sustainable management of natural resources. The Organization works strategically to maximize the positive impacts of migration, particularly in rural areas, fostering rural–urban linkages and advocating for better management of rural labour mobility.² Its work to date has mainly involved knowledge generation and identifying good practices. FAO is committed to working further in this thematic area, in full collaboration with other international organizations, such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), IOM and ILO, and with regional bodies, governments and the private sector and civil society. The ultimate goal is to enhance country capacity and policy coherence to reduce distress migration and promote gainful migration patterns to improve food security in migrant origin and destination countries.

1. Migration and development activities since the 2006 High-level Dialogue

With rapid urbanization, economic crises and other transformations in recent years that cause changes in lifestyles and diets in many parts of the world, FAO is particularly challenged to help policymakers and practitioners find new ways of assuring food security and agricultural stability and growth. Since 2006, the Organization has engaged in a range of different activities, including those described in this section.

¹ FAO was established as a UN specialized agency on 16 October 1945, in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. With its headquarters in Rome, FAO is a member of the UN Development Group, participates in ECOSOC along with the other 13 UN specialized agencies and the UN regional commissions, and is accountable to the FAO Conference of member governments. See also www.fao.org/about/en/.

² The thematic area of leveraging the potential of migration for reducing poverty is in line with the new FAO Strategic Framework, specifically, Strategic Objective 3: “Reduce Rural Poverty,” which is committed to more effectively contributing to reducing poverty and acknowledges the mobility of rural populations in its integrated approach for delivery at the country level.

Knowledge generation and normative work

The activities of FAO in this area include the following:

- (a) Contributions to and publication of articles, working papers, and peer-reviewed academic journals,³ including:
 - (i) Davis, B., C. Carletto and P.C. Winters. Special Issue: Migration, Transfers and Economic Decision Making Among Agricultural Households, *Journal of Development Studies*, (46)1 (London, 2010).
 - (ii) IFAD and FAO. “International migration, remittances and rural development,” report (Rome, 2008), available from www.ifad.org/pub/remittances/migration.pdf.

- (b) Global normative work, including:
 - (i) *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security*.⁴ Endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security at its thirty-eighth (special) session, these guidelines recognize the implications of migration and human mobility for the management of natural resources and address some implications of migration for the governance of tenure. There are important migration patterns associated with different natural resources, including the migration of fishermen, as they follow fish stocks throughout their range.
 - (ii) *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of National Food Security and Poverty Eradication*. Currently under development, these guidelines acknowledge the role of migration in the area of small-scale fisheries.⁵ Promoting a human rights-based approach for all, these guidelines aim to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and nutrition and support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

³ See, for example: IFAD, ILO and IOM, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Brief 13: Migration, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, (Rome, FAO, 2007); Davis, B. and P.C. Winters, *Migration, Transfers and Economic Decision Making Among Agricultural Households* (Abingdon, Routledge, 2010); Lucas, R.E.B., Migration and rural development, *Electronic Journal of Agricultural and Development Economics*, (4)1:99–122; Deshingkar, P., J. Sward and E. Estruch-Puertas, “Decent Work Country Programmes and human mobility,” Migrating Out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium Working Paper 5 (Brighton, Migrating Out of Poverty, 2012); McCarthy, N., C. Carletto, B. Davis, and I. Maltsoğlu, Assessing the impact of massive out-migration on agriculture,” FAO–ESA Working Paper (Rome, FAO, 2006); and Miluka, J. et al., “The vanishing farms? The impact of international migration on Albanian family farming,” (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2010).

Many of the contributions and publications have been used as references for this chapter (see corresponding footnotes). FAO has also produced country-based evidence, including the abovementioned “The vanishing farms? The impact of international migration on Albanian family farming,” “International migration from Albania: The role of family networks and previous experience,” (Stampini, M., Carletto, C. and B. Davis, 2008) and “Choosing to migrate or migrating to choose: Migration and labour choice in Albania” (C. Azzarri et al., 2006).

⁴ A copy of the guidelines can be downloaded from www.fao.org/docrep/016/i2801e/i2801e.pdf.

⁵ A copy of the guidelines can be downloaded from ftp://ftp.fao.org/...guidelines/ZeroDraftSSFGuidelines_MAY2012.pdf.

Organization of and participation in events

FAO has been involved in various events on migration, either as an organizer and/or participant.

(a) Organization of workshops on migration

- (i) In 2006 a workshop, “Beyond Agriculture: The Promise of the Rural Economy for Growth and Poverty Reduction,” was held in Rome to discuss topics relevant to rural development and rural poverty alleviation.⁶ One of the sessions was exclusively dedicated to migration and focused on the causes and effects of rural out-migration on agricultural and rural development.
- (ii) In 2007 a workshop that discussed existing methodological frameworks and their capacity to adequately capture the main impacts of public and private transfers to rural economies, and during which different countries shared and exchanged knowledge based on their experiences,⁷ led to the preparation of a special issue of the *Journal of Development Studies* in 2009 entitled “Migration, Transfers and Economic Decision Making among Agricultural Households”.⁸
- (iii) In March 2013 the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy, organized in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, highlighted the increasing frequency and severity of droughts due to climate change, and the impact these phenomena have on rural migration, which in turn impacts agricultural development. FAO contributes to strengthening resilience, in order to prevent rural migration due to drought, by supporting member countries to evaluate the impact of drought, assess food needs, mobilize assistance, implement emergency projects and rehabilitate the food production base.⁹

(b) Participation in high-level international events

FAO attended the Symposium on International Migration and Development (Turin, June 2006), the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD), the Ministerial Roundtable on Women’s Participation in Poverty Alleviation and Sustained Economic Growth including through the Initiatives of Migrant Women, ECOSOC 2007, the first meeting of the GFMD (July 2007), and the joint ECE–Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics (Geneva,

⁶ More information about the “Beyond Agriculture” workshop can be found at www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/esa/Workshop_reports/Beyond_agriculture/agenda.pdf.

⁷ See, for example: A. Quisumbing and S. McNiven, Moving forward, looking back: the impact of migrants’ remittances on assets, consumption and credit constraints in sending communities in the rural Philippines, *The Journal of Development Studies*, 46(1):91–113, available from ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/ai205e/ai205e00.pdf; and Taylor, J.E. and A.L. López-Feldman (2007). “Does migration make rural households more productive? Evidence from Mexico,” FAO–ESA Working Paper 07-10, available from ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/ah852e/ah852e.pdf.

⁸ The special issue is available for download from www.tandfonline.com/toc/fjds20/46/1.

⁹ The report “Science Document: Best Practices on National Drought Management Policy” is available from www.hmndp.org/sites/default/files/docs/ScienceDocument14212_Eng.pdf.

March 2008). All these events provided the opportunity for FAO to identify ways to maximize the developmental benefits of international migration and reduce its negative impacts, exchange know-how and experience in innovative tactics and methods, and establish cooperative links with other relevant actors.

Projects and programmes on migration and food security and agricultural and rural development

- (a) *Rapid appraisals on migration and agricultural development and food security in 15 countries, 2011–2012*, featuring Bangladesh, Ecuador, Gambia, the Grenadines, Guinea, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, St Vincent, Tonga and Zambia. Some of these studies were carried out in collaboration with the Commonwealth. The aim of the studies was to look into the important issues and challenges related to migration, namely:
- (i) Identifying to what extent the combined effects of out-migration and the inflow of remittances, for example, human capital formation, accumulation and investment in productive activities, reduce poverty and inequality;
 - (ii) Identifying situations in which the positive effect of remittances on poverty and food insecurity, including investment in productive agro-rural activities, could be effectively enhanced, and the negative impacts minimized, through policy or programmatic intervention.

Based on these appraisals, FAO proposed a series of recommendations for the promotion of an enabling environment for investing remittances in agro-rural sector development and food security initiatives. In particular, policy recommendations covered the following areas: (i) mainstreaming migration in the development agenda of public authorities; (ii) capacity-building; (iii) promoting territorial approaches and the involvement of civil society organizations, especially at the local level; (iv) strengthening communication strategies through information campaigns internally and abroad; (v) social and collective remittances; and (vi) innovative financial instruments. Building on these recommendations, the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting in Perth, Australia in October 2011 affirmed the importance of managing migration effectively in the Commonwealth.

- (b) *National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme (NFPCSP)*. Launched in 2005 in Bangladesh, the programme aims to build Bangladesh's institutional and human capacities to design, implement and monitor food security policies and establish an effective platform for dialogue. It is composed of four thematic areas based on the four dimensions of food security. Research on rural–urban linkages and their impacts on food security have been carried out in order to address this knowledge gap and improve policy formulation. The aim is to understand rural–urban migration patterns and their impact on individual and household food security, as well as provide information on potential interventions.¹⁰

¹⁰ For more information about the NFPCSP, visit the official website at www.nfpcsp.org/agridrupal.

- (c) *UN Joint Programme on Youth Employment and Migration* (including in Honduras and Tunisia). Through its participation in this programme, FAO works with agricultural stakeholders, mainly government ministries or departments of agriculture, in order to promote employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for rural youth and enhance the development impact of migrant remittances in rural communities.

Other areas of work

Aside from what has already been discussed, FAO has also been involved in the following:

- (a) *Climate impact assessment and adaptation*. Research shows that climate change may be a cause of migration. FAO work addresses this issue through the development and implementation of tools to assess the impact of climate change on agriculture and food security, and through assistance to governments in designing and implementing climate change adaptation and disaster risk management strategies, specific community-based approaches and national plans for the agriculture sector.
- (b) *Post-conflict and post-natural disaster contexts*. Internal migration may also result from natural disasters and conflicts, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are at particular risk of food insecurity. In post-conflict and post-natural disaster contexts, movements of IDPs with unmet fuel needs can put pressure on scarce natural resources. In this context, FAO is engaged with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Safe Access to Firewood and Alternative Energy, which was established in 2007.

2. Support provided to the Global Forum on Migration and Development

FAO has contributed to the GFMD through its technical statements to the high-level meetings on migration and development, which subsequently fed into discussions at the GFMD. FAO has also participated in relevant international and inter-agency cooperation to effectively manage migration flows for the maximum socioeconomic benefit of people in both sending and receiving countries.

3. Identified good practices

Migration and remittances need an articulated and organized support from all development actors (including official development assistance, foreign direct investment, diasporas, hometown associations, NGOs and private and public entrepreneurs) in the origin and receiving countries, to produce an effective strategy on agricultural development that contributes to food security from the bottom up.

Based on its mandate and comparative advantage, FAO has developed long-standing experience in collaborating with development partners, including other UN and related agencies (for example, IFAD, ILO and IOM) and universities, especially to provide evidence-based knowledge and policy support in the areas of migration, rural development and food security.

FAO has contributed substantively to the global and interdisciplinary dialogue on migration by promoting coherence between rural development and migration policies, identifying best practices where migration has worked for rural development, and playing an important role in the international action and cooperation on migration. The good practice lies in the focus on rural and/or peri-urban settlements, investments in agriculture, sustainable development of farming communities, support for rural enterprises and sustainable management of natural resources. Recently, FAO has also identified innovative ways to leverage the productive use of remittances by promoting suitable frameworks for rural finance and agricultural investment.

Some well-regulated temporary and seasonal migration schemes offer good practices, for example, with the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme and the Live-in Caregiver Visa Programme in Canada. Agricultural workers engaging in these schemes typically return with, or send back, remittances in cash and kind, as well as a range of knowledge and skills. These schemes could be studied in greater depth, to identify the best mechanisms to promote the investment of migrants' human and financial capital in agriculture and food security in their countries of origin.

Some countries, for example, Sri Lanka, have concluded memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with migrant-receiving countries in the Gulf States to better protect their emigrants' rights. Similar MoUs could be developed and adopted by other countries, extending their coverage to integration and co-development activities, especially considering that many of these migrant workers are engaged in agriculture.

In the fisheries sector, different aspects of mobility (for example, scale, magnitude and duration) have been assessed to better understand the determinants of migration among marine and inland fishing communities in West and Central Africa. Knowledge is needed to better inform fisheries' management policies and poverty reduction strategies for fishing communities. Among other recommendations, there is a strong need for measures to promote the specific rights of migrant fishing people in local

co-management mechanisms. Also, there should be more efforts to gather detailed information on the characteristics of migrant fishing people and their economic importance to both areas of origin and destination. Lessons learned from the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme of FAO indicate that:

- A political environment supportive of the protection of migrant fishing people's rights should be promoted.
- Regional research for the generation of data and information needed for policy formulation should be supported.
- Institutional capacity-building in the context of participatory fisheries management should take the needs of both local and migrant fishing communities into consideration.

4. Challenges identified in carrying out FAO work

Generally, there is a lack of awareness and evidence of the linkages between migration and agricultural and rural development, as well as the linkages between human mobility and food security and nutrition. The linkages between internal and international migration need further analysis and consideration in policy planning and implementation. This lack of awareness translates into a reduced number of international agencies that take food security and the poverty dimension of migration into serious consideration. The effects of migration flows on agriculture and rural development need to be better understood and more effectively addressed in policies and programmes.

From the point of view of FAO, there are a number of areas where more research is needed, in order to improve and implement evidence-based policies, including:

- (a) *Migration and food security.* Despite the wealth of research on migrant remittances, there has been limited investigation into the relationships between their use at the domestic level and food security.¹¹ Evidence shows that a large part is spent on the purchase of food, which has been dismissed as non-productive and a sign of economic dependence on cash transfers. Important issues to look into include: To what extent does migration improve the food security of rural populations? To what extent do the benefits of remittances spill over to non-migrant households?
- (b) *Migration and nutrition issues.* Migrants are often at risk of nutrition problems, since they may lack access and entitlements to resources in their new communities, and are often far from their traditional social networks. In addition, the foods available to them may be unfamiliar or taboo, and they may not live in places

¹¹ Some evidence in this subject is presented in: Carletto, C., B. Davis, A. Zezza, and P.C. Winters, P. C., Assessing the impact of migration on food and nutrition security, *Food Policy*, (36)1:1–6; and Bist, N.S. et al., "Understanding the dynamics of food insecurity and vulnerability in Himachal Pradesh," FAO–ESA Working Paper 07-22, available from <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/ah942e/ah942e00.pdf>.

where food can be prepared and stored safely. International migration implies changes in diets and lifestyles related to prevailing consumption models, food availability and entitlements. Nutritional challenges and risks should therefore be considered when discussing international migration issues.

- (c) *Internal migration and development.* There is a growing body of evidence that international migration is supportive of a development dynamic at the local level. The benefits of internal migration are less obvious, as internal mobility often yields lower financial returns. Possible research questions are:
 - (i) Does internal migration keep rural areas in a state of economic dependence?
 - (ii) Is internal migration instrumental or detrimental to agricultural growth and poverty?
- (d) *Impacts of migrant philanthropy and social remittances on rural development.* Much has been written on financial remittances, yet there remains a lack of understanding of the role of non-material and collective remittances. For example, there is a lack of knowledge of the linkages which might exist between the impacts of migration on gender roles and food consumption in migrant households.
- (e) *Promoting the investment of remittances in climate-smart agricultural practices in high-pressure migration areas and assessment of rural contexts (desertification level, access to water and agro-biodiversity).* In addition to stimulating investment, there is a need to identify areas where diaspora-supported projects can be implemented.
- (f) *Trans-boundary and tenure issues.* There is a need to understand trans-boundary issues affecting rural communities and the need to harmonize tenure governance in land, fisheries and forests, as highlighted by the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests mentioned above.
- (g) *Migration and health.* Fishing communities tend to show a higher prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and this appears to be at least partly related to the mobility of the sector. Small-scale fishing communities tend to be vulnerable in a multitude of ways, including having limited access to basic services such as health and education.¹² Migrant communities tend to face even more challenges than local communities in this respect.

¹² See also: FAO, "Achieving poverty reduction through responsible fisheries. Lessons from West and Central Africa," FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 513 (Rome, FAO, 2008).

5. Gaps evident within the migration and development sphere

All too often, development strategies address migration as a problem to be solved rather than an instrument to be productively used. Remittance flows appear to be particularly important to rural areas in developing regions, as they average between 40 per cent in Africa and 65 per cent in Asia of the total financial flows.¹³

The developmental potential of migration and remittances has increasingly been acknowledged by international organizations and development agencies. However, these issues still do not seem to be effectively reflected at the country level, as there is often insufficient evidence and capacity to adequately manage such complex phenomena. Furthermore, governments (in particular, agricultural stakeholders), usually have limited awareness about the potential of migration and remittances for reducing rural poverty, promoting agricultural and rural development and achieving food security for all. However, there is growing evidence of the advantages of better migration management.

As highlighted in the previous section (“Challenges identified in carrying out FAO work”), there is a strong need for evidence on how transformation processes in agriculture and rural areas influence migration patterns, and, in turn, how migration can contribute to reducing rural poverty and achieving food security. There is a need to raise awareness at the global, regional and national levels of this potential, and to improve the integration of migration concerns in sectoral policies, including in agriculture, at the national level and in relevant regional processes.

Further, there is a need to strengthen the capacity of national stakeholders, especially among sectors and line ministries, and agricultural and rural stakeholders, to improve coordination and policy coherence. At the point of origin, efforts should be devoted to better inform rural populations about their rights as migrants and the actual opportunities available at destination. The latter could be better coordinated with programmes for employment promotion and training and skills development.

There is, therefore, a need to develop collaborative programmes between all actors and stakeholders (national and international) to better manage migration flows, and favour financial instruments to support the channeling of remittances for productive activities in the agricultural sector. This may help mitigate the financial constraints faced by smallholder farmers, who often represent not only the mainstay of the agricultural sector, but also the majority of the rural poor. There should be more efforts to collect good practices in this regard, although the actual impact and, hence, the potential policy responses, should be assessed on a country-by-country basis.

¹³ To learn about the Financing Facility for Remittances Programme of IFAD, visit www.ifad.org/remittances.

There should be more attention to the links between international and internal movements. Rural out-migration is often internal, as poor people lack the financial resources and skills to migrate internationally. It is widely acknowledged that international and internal movements are closely linked, even if the implications of these linkages have not been sufficiently explored. For instance, there may be replacement migration from rural areas with effects on the availability of agricultural labour. Migration affects household allocation of labour and may create labour shortages in countries and areas of origin, particularly in the short run, thereby changing labour market dynamics. In rural areas, it may also accelerate the shift away from agriculture, especially of the youth, who do not perceive farming as a productive occupation. Further, changes in the spatial population distribution, resulting in the ageing and feminization of rural populations, can considerably affect both the supply of food and the demand for types of food produced and consumed.¹⁴

More attention is needed on the rural youth employment challenge. Many migrants are very young – in developing countries a third of all migrants are aged 12 to 24 years – and many of them will be moving within the same country and within the same region. In fact, among international migrants, half move within the same region and nearly 40 per cent to neighbouring countries.¹⁵

The gender dimensions of migration and rural development should also be considered.¹⁶ Migration impacts on gender relations, and female migration can be a driver of social change, increasing women's economic and social empowerment. On the other hand, migration can also increase the work burdens of those left behind and reduce time for household work and childcare.¹⁷ In many countries, female migrants are mostly employed in the informal sector, as domestic workers, caregivers and sex workers, or in labour-intensive and export-oriented manufacturing industries. They can tend to be more vulnerable than their male counterparts and suffer from gender discrimination and severe deficits in decent work in terms of wages, levels of protection and security and working conditions.

It is also important to consider the challenges at the global level. Together with the global economic and financial crisis, high and volatile food prices – and repeated shocks due to adverse climatic events – can have serious implications for migration. For instance, food insecurity and high food prices have been reported in countries

¹⁴ See also: G. Anríquez, "Long-term rural demographic trends," FAO working paper (Rome, FAO, 2007); Anríquez, G. and L. Stloukal, "Rural population change in developing countries lessons for policymaking," *European View*, 7:309-17.

¹⁵ World Bank, *World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation* (World Bank, Washington D.C., 2006)

¹⁶ See, for example: FAO, IFAD and ILO, "Making migration work for women and men in rural labour markets," Gender and Rural Employment Policy Brief No. 6 (Rome, 2010); Stecklov, G., C. Carletto, C. Azzarri and B. Davis, "Gender and migration from Albania," *Demography*, 47(4):935-61; Stecklov, G., C. Carletto, C. Azzarri and B. Davis, "Agency, education and networks: Gender and international migration from Albania," Policy Research Working Paper No. 4507 of the World Bank Development Research Group.

¹⁷ See, for instance: C. Carletto, K. Covarrubias and J.A. Maluccio, "Migration and child growth in rural Guatemala," *Food Policy*, 36(1):16-27.

like Nepal and Yemen as one of the causes of increased migration for work, especially among rural households.¹⁸ In general, however, limited employment opportunities are the main reason for rural people to migrate. Migration and remittances can help families cope with high food prices and increasing food price volatility.

As women are usually the main remittance recipients and the ones in charge of food preparation, migration can increase their role in allocating resources and spending more on the quality and quantity of food consumed, also in addition to investing in their children's education and health. However, none of these aspects have been adequately acknowledged in policy design and implementation.

6. Recommendations for the 2013 High-level Dialogue

Policy options need to offer viable alternatives to rural distress migration, helping to better manage labour migration and ease the pressure on urban centres. The aim at the same time is to address push factors in rural areas, and ensure that migrants can access decent work opportunities and equal standards of protection and services.

Given its mandate and comparative advantage, and its activities to date, FAO recommends that the 2013 HLD devote special attention to food security and nutrition. In particular, the HLD should give direction to all agencies involved in migration and development to foster collaboration with development partners, including promoting South–South cooperation, in the following areas:

- (a) Improve knowledge on the linkages between migration, climate change, agricultural and rural development and food security, focusing on the implications of climate change for the future livelihoods of farmers, fisher folk and rural communities, and on the role of remittances in the rural farming and non-farming sectors. FAO also gives high priority to better understanding the interactions between internal and international migration, with attention to rural–urban linkages and the social, gender and employment implications for rural populations.
- (b) Promote employment and entrepreneurship development in rural areas by exploiting the opportunities from more sustainable management of natural resources, and by fostering investments in agriculture, hence providing rural communities with economically and socially viable opportunities. FAO recommends strengthening lucrative forms of rural enterprise, such as farm production, off-farm services and agribusiness; facilitating access to remittances and financial services in rural areas; and improving access to vocational training and entrepreneurial skills, especially for the youth. For other rural activities, such as those related to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, FAO recommends strengthening the use of

¹⁸ J. Compton, S. Wiggins and S. Keats, "Impact of the global food crisis on the poor: What is the evidence?" (London, Overseas Development Institute, 2010).

management regimes that recognize and validate the access rights of both local and migrating stakeholders.

- (c) Develop capacities at the national and international levels to better incorporate migration considerations into agriculture, fisheries and rural development policies, and improve national labour market information systems to leverage the potential of migration for development, with particular attention to disadvantaged groups, including migrating women and the youth.
- (d) Support institutional reinforcement in the areas of migration, remittances and development, participatory planning and local governance.
- (e) Ensure the protection of human rights and promotion of decent work for rural migrants, for instance, improving job recruitment by providing migrant workers with pre-departure information about their rights, as well as protection and potential risks, in their destination country.
- (f) Promote good practices in terms of seasonal migration schemes for rural workers, for instance, complementing seasonal migration schemes with co-development programmes to encourage the investment of remittances in rural areas (farm and off-farm activities), at both regional (South–South) and interregional levels.
- (g) Support voluntary return migration and the engagement of diaspora groups, considering their key role in building the capacity of critical sectors in rural economies, through the transfer of knowledge and skills, and by channelling resources to rural areas through collective and social remittances.
- (h) Mobilize transnational diaspora entrepreneurship for the development of their countries of origin; encourage income-generating activities supported by public policy through decentralized investments in rural infrastructure; and encourage sustainable environment and biodiversity conservation and preservation, land recovery and environmental requalification.
- (i) Create special funding and savings schemes at the regional and international levels, targeting migrant workers at destination, which could generate funds for onward lending to youth engagement in agribusiness activities.
- (j) Refocus part of official development assistance flows towards the matching of remittances for investment purposes in small-scale agriculture and family farming.
- (k) Give due consideration to sectors like fisheries and livestock, where migration of small-scale fishermen and fishing fleets occurs, as well as cross-border pastoralist patterns, in order to develop recommendations that minimize the possibility of

perverse outcomes. For instance, the protection of the rights of migrant fishing people should be further promoted, building on approaches such as participatory fisheries management showcased in the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme of FAO.

- (l) Support research at the global, regional and country levels for the generation of data and information needed for policy formulation.
- (m) Contribute to better integrating migration concerns into relevant UN processes and forums, including the post-2015 development agenda.

In view of the above, FAO remains fully committed to contributing to the preparation of the 2013 HLD, as well as the GMG and the GFMD, and to exchange information and good practices on activities related to migration and development. FAO stands ready to transform its knowledge into action, to maximize the potential benefits of migration for agriculture and rural development, and to contribute to mainstreaming migration into agriculture and rural development planning.

