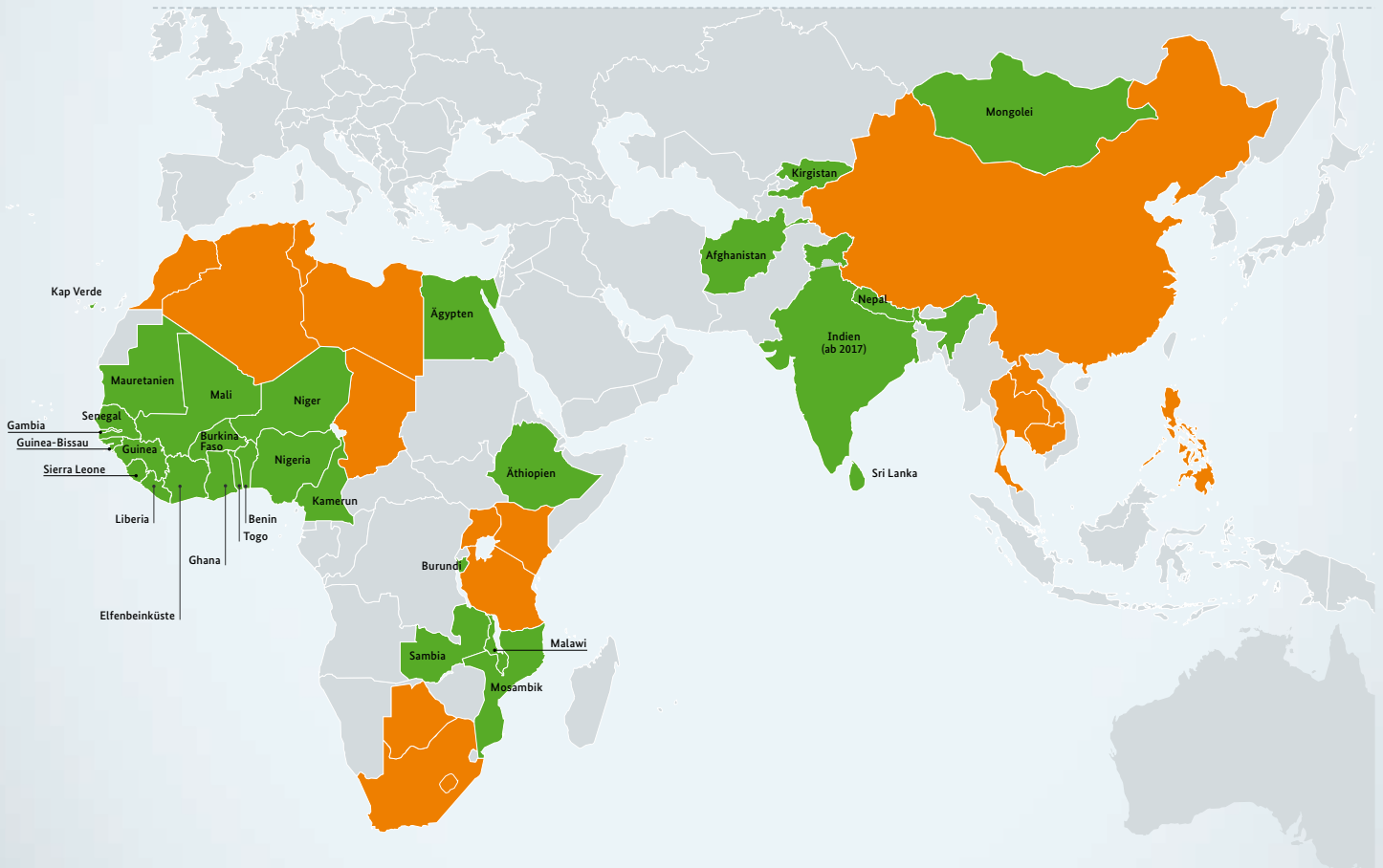




Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA)



Bilateral Trust Fund (BTF) with FAO

GFFA – BTF Political synergies in international activities

Legend to the map:

Regional focus of the BTF:

**Afghanistan, Sub-Saharan Africa,
South East Asia**

**Currently running in 29 countries
Project (green and marked with name).**

**Projects have been carried out since
2002 in the following 45 countries
(marked in orange):**

Afghanistan, Egypt, Algeria, Ethiopia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Zambia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Chad, Tunisia, Uganda, Central Afrika, Brazil, China, Haiti, Honduras, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand.





Insight: The “Global Forum for Food and Agriculture” (GFFA) is a major milestone in the international work of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). Under the title of “Ensuring World Food Security as a Global Challenge for Policymakers and Industry”, an extensive range of topics for discussion was defined back in 2009 for a series of conferences to be held on an annual basis to discuss central future questions facing the global agri-food industry under the banner of food security.

The central topics of the GFFA are not restricted to a theoretical discussion, but are directly anchored “in the field” via the “Bilateral Trust Fund”. The Fund is a programme operated by the BMEL and the FAO in which selected food security projects are carried out in a number of countries. Here, the GFFA topics are reflected at operative level and implemented in concrete projects – discussion and theory take on form and shape. The FAO implements the programme, whilst the BMEL provides the financial base. This has enabled roughly 100 projects to be carried out since 2002, channelling a total of approximately 121 million Euros.

You will find below some examples of events and project work successfully serving as a “Tandem for food security”. The list is not exhaustive:



2010

GFFA 2010: Agriculture and climate change

The topic: Farmers are affected particularly severely by the negative consequences of climate change, as production takes place both in nature and with nature. Desertification, water shortages, the loss of genetic resources, and the rise in extreme weather events such as droughts, storms and floods, lead to high harvesting losses. Sustainable production of food to secure an adequate supply throughout the world remains the central task in agriculture.

The message: Confronting climate change, and achieving the necessary increase in production, will only be possible through sustainable development. Production must therefore be optimised so that fewer greenhouse gases are emitted, and less water is used, per unit produced.

Corresponding BTF projects:

The BTF project to monitor and assess greenhouse gas emissions inputs data from agriculture into the FAO’s statistical database (FAOSTAT). This enables the individual Members to evaluate the emission data and to identify how reductions might be achieved. A follow-up project supports the Members in developing strategies to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are revealed. Another project consists of implementing the “Save and Grow” method in Zambia and Kyrgyzstan. It involves carrying out site-specific analyses of risks, impacts and adjustment potential. This provides policy-makers and practitioners with tools for prioritising and implementing activities and technologies with regard to the prevailing environmental and climate conditions.

GFFA 2013: Responsible investment in agriculture

The topic: Agriculture is the key to food security worldwide. Investment in sustainable agriculture and rural development is essential to support the realisation of the right to adequate food.

The message: The interests of smallholder farmers, women and the young generation in the countryside need to be taken into account when increasing public and private investment in agriculture. This premise applies to access to land, to capital and to financial services, as well as to the promotion of technology transfer for them, to providing information services, as well as to participation in the yield along the entire value chain. National frameworks to enhance investment and promote willingness to invest are hence to be shaped in light of responsible investment. Germany has campaigned intensively on the Committee on World Food Security for the drawing up of and negotiations on the principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems.



Corresponding BTF projects:

A variety of projects support national stakeholders in developing and adopting agricultural action plans which particularly focus on responsible investment planning. The project work in this regard largely takes place in Afghanistan and in Africa as part of the CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme). Projects include for instance developing a food security counselling system in Tanzania, establishing an integrated dairy model in Afghanistan and evaluating the sustainability of food and agricultural systems of small producers in Sub-Saharan Africa. Other projects aim to mobilise resources and ensure an efficient financial budget which adequately ensures that the projects can be implemented.



2013

GFFA 2015: The bioeconomy as an opportunity for agriculture and a challenge for food security

The topic: A new challenge for agriculture is the growing demand for resources, both for food production and for the production of bioenergy. This also brings about changes in the role of producers and processors in the food industry.

The message: The formula “food before feed before fuel” makes clear the prioritisation of agricultural production. Strong, sustainable agri-food systems form the basis for the human right to food. The potential offered by the agricultural production of food and renewable raw materials helps diversify agriculture. Only a sustainable and efficient agricultural sector which feeds the people is the foundation of the bioeconomy. It hence provides a strategy for achieving sustainable development in social, economic and environmental terms. Agriculture is now to seize the opportunities arising from bio-based and sustainable value chains but at the same time prioritise the rising demand for food in order to ensure food security.



2015

Corresponding BTF projects:

A framework for analysis was first of all drawn up in the projects on bioenergy and food security (BEFS) which assesses the impact of bioenergy production on food security in developing countries. The project helps developing countries to adequately guarantee the necessary priority of food security. It has been expanded to include a rapid analysis procedure which offers additional assistance in orientation as a practical self-test in a short time and with a minimum of financial effort. Moreover, another project is establishing an external pool of trainers who are to hold courses on the analysis methods, as well as to further spread the analysis method in Africa.

The BTF is also assessing the results of the GFFA 2015 in other activities. A bioeconomy platform has been launched in which not only existing concepts, policies, strategies and programmes from roughly 20 countries (industrial, emerging and developing countries) are being assessed and published by the FAO in the document entitled “How Sustainability is Addressed in Official Bioeconomy Strategies at International, National and Regional Levels: An overview”. At the same time, guiding principles have been developed for a sustainable bioeconomy. These form the basis for the planned sustainable bioeconomy guideline, which is to support governments in implementing their bioeconomy strategies.



2016



GFFA 2016: Agriculture and rural areas in an era of urbanisation

The topic: High international priority must be afforded to food security in the continuously-growing cities. Successful urbanisation can hence only be successful with sustainable agriculture.

The message: As vital suppliers of food and ecosystem services, agriculture and rural areas are key to the food security and quality of life of urban populations. To play its role, agriculture needs to be productive and sustainable, to be an integral part of an efficient and reliable supply and value chain, embedded in a rule-based trade system and supported by vibrant rural areas. The planning of expanding cities must take account of the specific needs of agriculture and rural areas in order to strengthen the vital and symbiotic interactions between villages, towns and cities.

Corresponding BTF projects:

The BTF has taken up this approach in its project entitled Improving urban-rural food systems, which also forms part of the FAO's "Food for the Cities Initiative". This project aims to bring about improved, more stable supply of the city populations with nutritious food. The project is hence analysing urban-rural food systems in order to improve supply through tailor-made activities. This particularly focuses on the contribution which smallholder farmers in peri-urban areas can make towards feeding city populations.

The outlook: The GFFA 2017 has placed "Agriculture and Water – Key to Feeding the World" on its agenda. Water is the key resource of food security, and protecting it, as well as making sustainable use of it, is a worldwide challenge. Urbanisation, economic development, population growth and climate change are intensifying competition for water, so that sustainable, comprehensive, integrated water management are vital. Agriculture needs to take up an established place in the development of coordinated national, regional and international water use strategies. It also forms part of the solution in order to conserve, protect and sustainably use this precious resource. The BTF has already launched a pilot project on this entitled: "Land and water management in the Senegal river valley". It is helping the three riparian states Senegal, Mauritania and Mali to standardise the growing demand for land and water resources in order to create rights of ownership and utilisation which are harmonised and recognised in all three countries. A particular focus is placed here on dialogue involving all local and regional interest groups. Other projects on water and agriculture are being planned.

We will continue to maintain the successful principle of an "operative echo" between topical discussion in the GFFA and concrete implementation in the BTF projects: Never change a winning team!

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