

The sector project on **Agricultural Policy and Food Security** was established by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project focuses on providing sustainable, tailored support to the agricultural sector with the aim of achieving food security in our partner countries.

What challenges do we face?

Despite numerous national and international strategies and coordination processes, the number of hungry people in the world has increased in recent years and the prospect of implementing the human right to food is receding into the distance. The reasons for this lie not only in rising and widely fluctuating food prices, but also in structural problems such as lack of income, wars – including civil wars – a fragile statehood. In the agricultural sector itself, a lack of access to resources (land, water, seed and credit), increasing climate variability and environmental disasters play a key role. Another significant factor is that rural areas are, by and large, a low priority in government funding programmes. The challenge is to ensure, particularly at national level, that greater consideration is given to the importance of supporting agriculture and that coherent strategies for achieving food security are established.

How does the sector project work?

- 1.** Providing technical advice to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV):
 - supporting BMZ in preparing policy briefs, technical input, concept and strategy papers and in carrying out coordination processes;
 - managing BMELV's bilateral fund for the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- 2.** Technical and conceptual work:
 - processing and analysing experiences in partner countries, carrying out studies;
 - preparing position, discussion and concept papers;
- 3.** Effective positioning in national and international working groups, networks and cooperation activities focusing on mainstreaming relevant agricultural policy and food security issues.

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Sector project Agricultural Policy and Food Security

50 Years of BMZ

Building the future.
Let's join forces.

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Examples of our work

Developing concepts and strategies

Based on case studies and practical knowledge acquired in German and international development cooperation, the sector project works on concepts and strategies that support market integration and food security for small farmers. Focusing on 'inclusive business models', the project explores how business relationships between small farmers and the private sector might be guided in a direction that promotes sustainable development of the farmers' production capacities and negotiation skills.



The strategy development process focuses on agricultural policy instruments that can create an enabling environment for cooperation and thus help to ensure the quality of private-sector initiatives in rural areas.



Staging conferences and specialist events

In addition to staging its own specialist events on world food security, the project also organises and stages conferences on behalf of BMZ and BMELV. The BMZ network event 'Development of rural regions – new partnerships between policy makers, the business community, academia, and civil society' is one example. At this conference, BMZ's new strategy paper 'Rural development and its contribution to food security' was discussed with participants representing the political sphere, the private sector, academia and civil society. In the future, new rural development partnerships are expected to make a comprehensive and effective contribution to reducing poverty and improving global food security.

International coordination

International coordination processes are playing an increasingly important role in the field of food security. The sector project advises on the G8's L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI) and the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development and plays a part in informing Germany's position within the G20 process. It cooperates with FAO, participates in the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and organises expert panel discussions at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA).



Working Group on Global Food Security

The sector project organises and moderates the Working Group on Global Food Security (German: AK WE). In this national dialogue forum, representatives from BMZ and BMELV, NGOs, scientific institutions and UN organisations discuss current issues and ideas with the aim of combating hunger and achieving food security.

Carrying out studies

In search of instruments and concepts that have proved to be successful in improving food security, the project commissioned a review of an Integrated Food Security Programme (IFSP) which was implemented in Malawi between 1996 and 2004. Six years after its conclusion, the programme's results and sustainability were evaluated by a food security expert. The findings are promising and show that multisectoral programmes can have long-term positive effects.



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