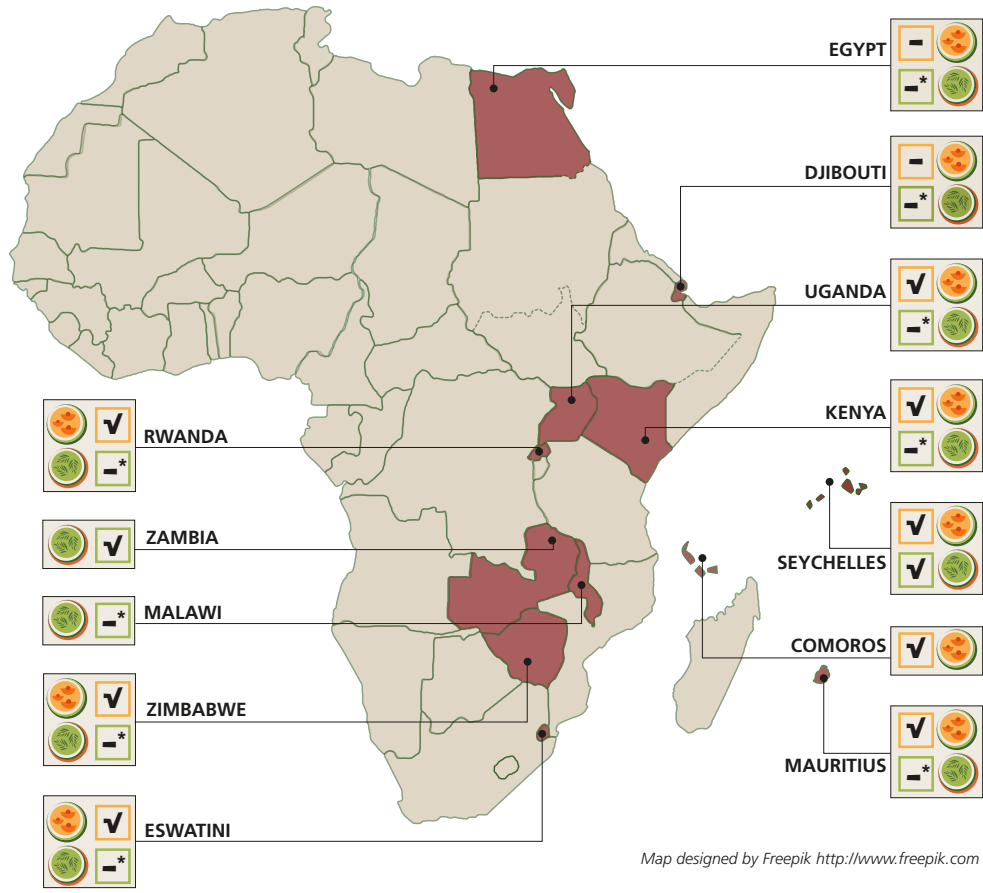


Assessments in 2022-2024 completed and ongoing

 Food Control System Assessment  Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations



Completed Ongoing (*) Country opted to draft or review legislation/regulation, whose work is still ongoing.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this/these map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. Final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined.

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COMMUNICATIONS EDITION

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES AND GOVERNANCE in food safety and plant health

May 2024



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A year in review

2023 was an especially active year for the EU-funded GCP/GLO/949/EC project

A total of 12 African Union (AU) countries implemented food control system and phytosanitary capacity evaluations. FAO's Agrifood Systems and Food Safety Division (ESF) and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat provided support, including with communications activities, building momentum and enhancing visibility. To this end, FAO collaborated with the AU and its affiliated institutions: the Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council, the Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources, and the Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area. Take a look inside to learn about the project and outreach activities.



Building momentum to implement the SPS Policy Framework of the African Union



© FAO / Charles Mawungwa (Zimbabwe)



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[Read about them on the next page]

The project activities were led by the participating countries with the support of FAO and the IPPC meant to support these.

The project activities were led by the participating Secretariat. Our communications activities were

200 National stakeholders were involved and trained, including National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and external stakeholders

8 Phytosanitary experts from the region have been trained as PCE facilitators

7 Countries have opted to draft or review legislations/regulations as part of the PCE process

2 More countries are set to conduct the PCE in 2024

9 National Phytosanitary Capacity Development Strategies have been validated

PLANT HEALTH component activities



222 Focal Points were trained from Competent Authorities in the food control system

14 International and national consultants/experts were fully trained across the region in the use of the food control system assessment tool

8 National Strategic Action Plans have been developed based on the assessment results

2 More countries are set to complete the assessment in 2024

8 Countries completed the assessment

FOOD SAFETY component activities



2022

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

2024



Across the 12 African Union countries

Raising awareness across the region

In 2023, the team promoted activities to boost regional awareness about the project, about food safety and plant health, and about the importance of regional harmonization.

News from the world

“World Food Safety Day” broadcast worldwide

Last June, was a chance for the project to be on the spotlight. Representatives from the EU and AU and our stakeholders on the ground discussed the highlights of the project and shared their experiences.



FAO Official Photostream

High-level policy makers attended our events



© FAO / Grace Musimami

Ministers and government officials spoke of the importance of the project for the food safety and plant health of their countries. Our photographers and videographers were there to cover them.

Promoting brand awareness

Banners and fact sheets were displayed and circulated at project events to increase visibility, targeting policymakers, reporters, and participants to promote awareness.



Feedback from participants



© FAO / Hamada Soliman (Egypt)

In dozens of interviews on the ground, participants conveyed excitement for the project.

Our activities have been noticed on local news

Our press releases and contacts with journalists have turned into press coverage in local media.



© FAO / Jean Baptiste Nkurunziza (Rwanda)



© FAO / Fredrick Onyango (Kenya)

Across the African Union countries



These communication initiatives have increased the project's footprint and helped raise awareness in the region about the importance of using science-based tools to identify where resources are most needed to improve food control and phytosanitary systems. Joint efforts by FAO's ESF and IPPC Secretariat, the EU, and the AU, aim to support countries in the region advance economically and expand trade within the free trade area while protecting the wellbeing and health of their populations.

Twitter/X Posts

Posted and reposted by partners to reach a wider audience



A project video is in the making

The Communications Team is collecting and sorting all the photos and footage from the field to make a series of videos so others can learn about the important work done thus far.



© FAO / Satyen Bhujun

Press releases before every activity distributed via email, Twitter/X, Facebook pages, and websites

Joint interviews with government officials on the importance of food safety and plant health working hand in hand

Smart LINK



Please follow the link for more information on the project