

FAO submission towards the report of the Secretary-General on resolution 75/56 on “Mongolia’s international security and nuclear-weapon-free status” (Consolidated update reflecting FAO Mongolia’s work, including post-2024 developments)

Considering the critical role of food security and sustainable agrifood systems in strengthening Mongolia’s independence, sovereignty and economic security, and in line with operative paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 75/56, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has continued to work closely with the Government of Mongolia in promoting food security, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation and ecological balance. Building on earlier cooperation, FAO has consolidated and expanded its support after 2024, responding to the compounded impacts of climate change, economic vulnerability and recurrent extreme weather events, while aligning with Mongolia’s national development priorities and the FAO Country Programming Framework 2023–2027.

Across the reporting period, FAO’s engagement in Mongolia has been guided by three mutually reinforcing areas of work: (i) strengthening policy, institutional and human capacities to facilitate the transition towards greener, resource efficient, low carbon, climate responsive and market oriented agrifood systems, including through digital solutions and innovation; (ii) supporting a more diversified, inclusive, productive and geographically balanced food and agriculture sector that generates decent livelihoods, particularly for women and youth; and (iii) enhancing sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems to reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss, and to strengthen climate resilience, food security and peace.

Agricultural Sector Capacity Building

FAO Mongolia has continued to strengthen institutional and human capacities across the agricultural sector, building on earlier initiatives and scaling up support after 2024. Institutional capacity development has expanded opportunities for training and skills development, particularly for rural women, youth, small-scale farmers, herders and marginalized groups. FAO introduced and further rolled out practical toolkits, vocational and agripreneurship training curricula, and youth focused programmes that link production, processing and market access, supporting inclusive rural transformation and employment generation.

Targeted support to women and herder households has facilitated the establishment and strengthening of small-scale food processing activities, contributing to value addition, diversification of food products and improved household incomes. These interventions

have generated positive spillover effects for local economies and rural communities, reinforcing the social and economic foundations of food security.

FAO has also continued to support national food safety and quality systems. This includes the integration and approval of Codex Alimentarius standards as national standards, enhancement of laboratory capacities, development and implementation of the National Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance, and awareness raising activities for producers, processors and consumers, including school-based outreach. Post 2024 efforts have increasingly emphasized risk-based food safety management and consumer awareness, reflecting evolving domestic demand and regional market integration.

Natural Resource Management and Conservation

In response to accelerating land degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss, FAO Mongolia has intensified its work on sustainable land, forest and rangeland management. Through decentralized and ecosystem-based approaches, FAO has supported policy reforms, strengthened capacities of local government institutions and promoted community-based natural resource governance. These efforts contribute directly to climate change adaptation and mitigation, while improving ecosystem services across forest, rangeland and freshwater systems.

FAO supported initiatives have focused on rehabilitating degraded rangelands and forest patches, improving pasture and forest governance, and mobilizing climate finance to support sustainable resource management. Enhanced community participation and local stewardship have been central to these interventions, which are critical for safeguarding rural livelihoods, reducing climate-related risks and reinforcing Mongolia's ecological, economic and social resilience.

Digital Agriculture, Innovation and Remote Sensing

FAO has supported Mongolia's transition towards digital agriculture as a key enabler of efficiency, transparency and resilience in agrifood systems. Building on the E-Agriculture Strategy, FAO supported the development and implementation of a Digital Agriculture Action Plan, which has continued to guide innovation after 2024.

Pilot initiatives have included digital registration and certification systems, such as animal identification and registration, plant origin and agrochemical registration, vegetable grower registration, and data-driven analytical dashboards. Innovative technologies, including remote sensing, geospatial analysis, blockchain-based certification and agricultural drones, have been tested and applied to crop production, livestock management and land use planning.

The use of remote sensing and digital tools has enabled improved identification, mapping and monitoring of national agricultural land reserves, abandoned agricultural land, rangelands and climate risks. These innovations support evidence based policy formulation, improved land governance and early action in response to climate and production risks.

Building Resilient Agrifood Systems

Mongolia remains highly exposed to recurrent dzud, droughts and other climate related shocks that can severely disrupt agriculture and rural livelihoods. FAO has continued to support the Government and stakeholders in strengthening disaster risk reduction, early warning and climate smart agriculture as integral components of resilient agrifood systems. Capacity development efforts have targeted national and local institutions to better anticipate, prepare for and respond to climate induced food security risks, and move beyond ad hoc response towards more systematic risk management.

In partnership with other UN agencies and development partners, FAO has supported Mongolia in building capacity in land use and agriculture sectors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience to climate change. Training guidelines and technical support have been provided to enhance knowledge and skills for national plan implementation, with a focus on agriculture, energy linkages and multistakeholder engagement. These actions reinforce the role of resilient agrifood systems in sustaining livelihoods, social stability and national security.

Partnerships

Addressing the interconnected challenges of food security, climate change and sustainability requires strong and inclusive partnerships. FAO Mongolia works with a wide range of partners, including national ministries and institutions, UN agencies, development partners, academia, civil society organizations, family farmers, parliamentarians and the private sector. Since 2024, these partnerships have been further deepened through high-level policy dialogue and expanded programme cooperation.

FAO's multifaceted interventions in Mongolia demonstrate that resilient and sustainable agrifood systems are central not only to food security and nutrition, but also to peacebuilding, ecological balance and long-term national resilience. As Mongolia navigates multiple global and regional challenges affecting its agrifood systems and rural communities, FAO remains committed to supporting national efforts to strengthen sustainable agrifood systems as a foundation for sovereignty, stability and sustainable development.