

# Food security and rural development



## Our commitment

Food insecurity remains far too prevalent in the developing world. Hunger and under nutrition can foster wider insecurity and undermines the achievement of other development objectives. While the drivers of food insecurity are complex, the lack of investment in research, agricultural infrastructure, and social protection measures has exacerbated recent food price spikes.

Aurecon believes that investment and strategic interventions to improve the availability of, access to, and utilisation of food, particularly amongst poor women and girls, are essential to sustained improvements in food security.



## About us

Aurecon is a long-standing AusAID delivery partner providing international development management and technical assistance. With an office network extending across 23 countries, Aurecon has been involved in projects in over 80 countries across Asia Pacific, Africa and the Middle East and employs around 7 000 people across 11 specialist service groups.

Our consortium with IBF International Consulting for delivery of this panel has around 60 000 registered consultants including over 3 000 specialists in food security and rural development disciplines. In addition, we have domestic and international alliances, consultant networks and memberships of third party databases including DevHire and LinkedIn providing access to over 400 000 development professionals.

We offer world class capability in managing standing offer panels and accessing specialist consultants, alongside long experience and deep familiarity with AusAID requirements.

## Core competencies in food security and rural development

- Food security analysis, research and strategy
- Food security and rural development policy, programme, and project design and review
- Institutional reforms to improve the performance of agricultural research
- Understanding food security systems and devising interventions to increase food availability and incomes sustainably and at scale
- Monitoring and measuring credible results in food security
- Poverty reduction and social inclusion in rural areas
- Women's economic empowerment
- Economics, trade and private sector development
- Gender aspects of food security, particularly in agricultural research, rural enterprise and in social protection systems

# Aurecon's expertise

## Our experience

We assisted the EC to evaluate and select research proposals for Caribbean and Pacific Agriculture Sustainable Development. In Asia, Africa and Latin America we have evaluated CIGAR Research Results for small farmers and evaluated the EU micro-projects programme in Guyana. In particular we assessed CIGAR's impact on food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable development through improvements to smallholder farming practice in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Guatemala, San Salvador, Honduras, India, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, Niger, Peru, Philippines, Tanzania and Uganda.

In Indonesia, the ACCESS Phase II Program, which we manage for AusAID, includes provision of grants to partner CSOs to support food security in the remote district of TTS on Kupang Island. Support is provided to empower villagers and strengthen community-based organisations (such as farmer groups) so they are able to plan for food security each year.

We are currently engaged by the EC to undertake a Study on Social Protection in Sub-Saharan Africa (EC). This involves a stocktaking/mapping exercise of existing national social protection programme/schemes, their objectives, target populations, achievements, and implementation in sub-Saharan African countries. Our report will make recommendations for future EC intervention based on best practice and lessons learnt. We are also currently assisting the EC to prepare its public policy communications on Social Protection in EU Development Cooperation.

We are responsible for the monitoring of food facility projects in the Philippines, under which the EU provides early recovery support between emergency assistance and long-term development cooperation.

We have provided programming support for Kenya under the EU MDG Initiative to identify, inter alia, EDF support for agriculture and food security. We have advised the EC on Aquaculture Policy Development in Kenya and Tanzania.

On behalf of the EU, we have reviewed land issues and policy reform worldwide, but with particular focus on Africa and the Pacific, recognising the importance of access to land in terms of both agricultural development and conflict prevention/resolution and peace building.

In South Africa we were engaged to develop a public works programme to create labour-intensive employment in small scale irrigation farming and labour-based road construction and maintenance for the benefit of impoverished

communities in the North West Province. For the Limpopo Department of Agriculture in South Africa we were engaged to design the Maruleng LandCare project. LandCare uses community-based approaches to improving the sustainability of agricultural production systems, address environmental issues such as land degradation and protecting the future of natural resources. We undertook the mid-term evaluation of the EC Enhancement of Living Standards Program in Uzbekistan which supports irrigated agriculture and improved agriculture practice.

We have been responsible for advising the EU on rural credit funds and micro-finance on the islands of Dominica, Granada and St Lucia - all small rural economies which do not lend themselves easily to the development of larger enterprises. Globalisation and economic liberalisation are forcing radical adjustments in these economies which has contributed to significant economic and social dislocation, particularly within rural communities.

Our staff also have extensive experience of working with the private sector and have designed and managed facilities, challenge funds and programmes in Asia, Africa, and central Europe to enhance the contribution of business to food security.

The overall objective of the Aurecon-managed Income Generating Public Works Programme (IGPWP) in Malawi is poverty reduction and benefits more than 550 000 people. The project enhances the socio-economic situation of rural/peri-urban poor by improving accessibility, infrastructure and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and linkages to other economic activities. IGPWP is using labour intensive approaches to implement interventions in forestry, irrigation and roads. The implementation of interventions under the IGPWP builds on the lessons and achievements of the predecessor programmes, the GoM/EU PWP and the Multi Annual Food Security Programme (MAFSP), which Aurecon managed and which used similar approaches.

Phase II of ACCESS also demonstrates our engagement in poverty and vulnerability assessments for social protection and poverty reduction programming. The programme reached over 780 villages in the 16 original districts. Work was extended to a further 200 villages in four new expansion districts. 225 grants to 125 CSOs who are involved in activities at the village, subdistrict and district level to provide support to nearly

1 800 citizen's groups with over 17 000 members of which about 500 are economic groups working together to improve production and market opportunity.



## How we work

Our food security and rural development principal advisor oversees team selection, methodology and quality assures outputs as required by service orders. We ensure all team members are familiar with relevant AusAID policies, strategies and guidance.

Aurecon is committed to promoting learning and supporting the development of communities of practice with AusAID. We welcome opportunities to share lessons from our AusAID work and wider experience to help improve aid effectiveness.

Our Canberra office is the point of contact for all AusAID advisory services. We respond to all queries within 18 hours, and are available to discuss specific matters with AusAID during normal business hours.

For more information, contact the food security and rural development principal advisor:  
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## Key contact

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