



COLLABORATION BETWEEN
THE GEF-UNDP SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME AND
THE MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP SECRETARIAT

Enhancing agri-food value chains to increase resilience of mountain communities

Mountains matter for all. Mountains are key ecosystems providing goods and services to the planet and supporting the livelihoods of a vast number of peoples. Mountains provide and regulate up to 80 percent of global freshwater resources. Mountain ecosystems and peoples are crucial for achieving the SDGs, and the 2030 Agenda recognizes the crucial role of sustainable mountain development in SDG 6 and SDG 15.

On the other hand, climate change has a strong impact on mountain areas, increasing the occurrence of disasters and exacerbating desertification, land degradation, and soil erosion. Consequently, living in mountain areas is increasingly difficult. FAO's statistics show that the rate of poverty and food insecurity in mountain areas is higher than anywhere else in the world, almost three times above the global average of all developing countries. Food insecurity among mountain populations increased by 30 percent since 2000, often forcing peoples to migrate.

In mountains, agriculture is often the backbone of the local economy. Farming in mountain regions is undergoing rapid transformation and global changes have contributed to higher pressure on local resources, unsustainable practices in land use, loss of local customs and ancient traditions. The urgent challenge is to identify new and sustainable opportunities that can enhance the resilience of mountain peoples and environments. Investments and technical support are needed to diversify and boost mountain agricultural production systems and improving the competitiveness of mountain food systems and agri-food value chains.

Considering the above, GEF Small Grants Programme, implemented by UNDP and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), housed in FAO have decided to combine efforts of the two initiatives "GEF Small Grants Programme" and "Mountain Partnership Products initiative" (MPP) towards the common goal of increasing the resilience of mountain communities through the improvement of local economies and livelihoods by strengthening agriculture food value chains.

GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)

Established in 1992, GEF SGP, implemented by UNDP provides financial and technical support to civil society organizations to conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods. SGP is rooted in the belief that local actions can contribute to addressing global environmental issues, while promoting sustainable local livelihoods and empowering local communities.

Mountain Partnership Products initiative

*Launched in 2015 by the Mountain Partnership in collaboration **with Slow Food International**, the MPP initiative is a participatory certification and labelling scheme that supports small-holder mountain producers in developing countries through value chain improvement, marketing strategy development and the granting of the MPP label to selected high-value mountain products.*