

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.

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

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.

What do we hope to achieve?

Increased resilience of mountain communities through the enhancement of agri-food value chains, through

- ⇒ Strengthened value chains of high-value mountain products
- ⇒ Enhanced capacity of producer organizations to promote mountain products

If you are, a smallholder mountain producer or a Community Based Organization/Non-Governmental Organization that cooperates with small-holder mountain producers; and a member of the Mountain Partnership working with women, youth or indigenous peoples, then you are set to become part of this exciting initiative.

If however, you are not a member of the Mountain Partnership, you can still apply for membership ([Application form](#)) and at the same time submit a proposal when a call for proposals is issued.

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 communi-

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.*