Agricultural technical cooperation in 2008
In Africa…

Poverty reduction has long been the key social and economic development goal of African countries. Increasing crop yields drives this process by reducing levels of malnourishment, cutting expensive food imports, and boosting income within rural communities.
In Latin America and the Caribbean...

Global food shortages occurring since 2007 have had a major impact on some of our partner nations in Central America. Just as in Africa, enhancing capacity for food production in this region remains an urgent priority.

On the whole, crop production in Latin America and Caribbean countries is relatively adequate and stable. The priority should therefore be to enhance the quality of agricultural goods and produce a more diversified selection of products.

On many Caribbean islands, recent rises and spikes in oil prices have taken a much heavier toll than has the rising cost of food itself. As such, efforts should be made to keep food affordable by managing cost structures (including transport, distribution, taxation and tariffs); and by strengthening farmers’ ability to produce food locally, in order to maintain domestic self-sufficiency.
In the Pacific...

Agricultural production on Pacific island countries is vulnerable to a number of limiting factors. The range of crops that can be grown is restricted by space given over to arable land, the fragile ecology, a lack of agricultural infrastructure, and small domestic markets. Overall output has therefore been insufficient to meet domestic demand, which has exacerbated wider problems in development.