

Food and Agriculture Organization and Rome Based Agencies (FAO-RBA) Cricket Team

Key Contacts (Send us a message as we are looking to grow the team!)

Ahmed Raza (ahmed.raza@fao.org); Gerard Sylvester (Gerard.sylvester@fao.org); Nisar Cheema (nisar.cheema@fao.org); Anoop Sharma (Anoop.sharma@fao.org)

Background

In 2021, under the auspices of the FAO Staff Coop, a group of individuals from the Rome-based Agencies (RBA) took the initiative to lay the foundation of a cricket team. The team was called the FAO-RBA XI.

Several decades ago FAO supported a cricket team which participated in friendly fixtures in the Lazio region. However, the team dwindled away as key people either relocated or left FAO.

To ensure that the revived FAO-RBA XI does not face the same fate, a purposeful effort was made to form a critical mass of cricket supporting and playing individuals from the RBAs and to laying the foundation of initiatives (detailed below) that would ensure the sustainability of the team.

Highlights

Since the revival of the team in September 2021, the number of registered players has risen to 27. Most of these players come from FAO, WFP, IFAD and UNIDROIT, while some are expats living and working in Rome.

Basic guidelines and rules governing the FAO-RBA XI have been developed. The governing committee has been put in place which includes a President, Vice President, Secretary and Social Representative to effectively run the team.

Over the period of **September 2021 to June 2022, the FAO-RBA XI has played 16 games** with various local clubs in the Rome and Latina areas. The format of these games included T20s, 40 overs, 90 overs and 15 overs. The statistics of all the fixtures can be accessed here: **FAO-RBA XI Statistics**.

Communication channels have been set-up to document the weekly journey of the team ans foster greater team spirit. These channels can be accessed here: <u>FAO-RBA XI Instagram Page</u>, <u>FAO-RBA XI Twitter Page</u>.

Future developments

A podcast covering various aspects of the team's journey is coming soon!