ALAWUC/NE/02/REP
March 2002

REPORT OF THE

SECOND SESSION OF AGRICULTURE, LAND AND WATER USE COMMISSION FOR THE NEAR EAST REGION (ALAWUC)

Tehran, The Islamic Republic of Iran
5-7 March 2002

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO Regional Office for the Near East

Cairo - March 2002

LIST OF ALAWUC MEMBER COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN
BAHRAIN
CYPRUS
EGYPT
IRAN
IRAQ
JORDAN
KUWAIT
LEBANON
LIBYA
MAURITANIA
MOROCCO
OMAN
PAKISTAN
QATAR
SAUDI ARABIA
SUDAN
SYRIA
TUNISIA
TURKEY
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
YEMEN

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FAO/RNE 2002

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SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations made by the Second Session on Agriculture, Land and Water Use Commission for the Near East (ALAWUC) were as follows:

1. Action Taken on the Recommendations of the First Agriculture and Land & Water Use Commission for the Near East

The Commission **called upon** Member Countries who have not nominated a *focal point* to do so, in order to facilitate communication and ensure effective follow-up of the Commission activities.

- Realizing the definite benefits and the coordinating role of networking, the Commission **urged** Member Countries to lend adequate technical and financial support to the newly-established Regional Networks on Drought Management and that on Wastewater Reuse.

- Recognizing the instrumental role of investment in boosting agricultural outputs, the Commission **endorsed** the recommendations of the Regional Consultation held in October 2001 in Amman, Jordan and **urged** Member Countries to put more emphasis on the investment in agriculture and particularly in land and water projects, for achieving better food security levels.

- The Commission further **entrusted** the FAO in promoting the cause of food security at the coming International Conference on Financing Development scheduled in Mexico in March 2002, and to ask the donors community for more investment in Agriculture.

2. Utilization of Groundwater and Treated Wastewater in the Near East

The Commission **called upon** Member Countries to:

- give due particular attention to balanced utilization and management of groundwater in an integrated manner with surface water at the level of basins and aquifers;

- undertake accurate quantitative and qualitative assessment of renewable groundwater resources that can be used in a sustainable manner at the aquifer level ; and build the capacity to do so as needed;

- promote the efficient and sustainable use of groundwater and encourage farmers to adopt appropriate management of these resources through the establishment of Water Users Associations;

- develop and adopt policies and regulations for the controlled abstraction from groundwater based on estimated recharge rates;

- reserve non-renewable groundwater resources for supplementary irrigation and winter crops where applicable and under stringent conditions. In dry lands and areas vulnerable to drought, these resources should be allocated to the development of natural vegetable covers, particularly during dry spells to safeguard animal resources and as a strategic measure against drought;

- pay due attention to explore economically-feasible technologies related to desalination of brackish and saline waters and the use of marginal waters, as alternatives to groundwater;

- focus national efforts to recharge groundwater aquifers through the utilization of floods and promote exchange of experience on this subject in the Region;

- asses the feasibility of using treated wastewater to recharge groundwater, ensuring the necessary water quality control measures;

- analyze and address the causes of water demand increase within the framework of sustainable water resources management;

- provide all possible support to the Regional Network on Wastewater Reuse; and

- give consideration to the improvement of small or micro watersheds, at the level of farms or groups of farms, focusing on technology transfer and adaptation.

The Commission **requested** FAO to:

- provide technical assistance, when requested, to build Member Countries capacities to manage groundwater aquifers and basins;

- establish a regional forum for cooperation and exchange of experience on the development of water resources and their use, including groundwater;

- elaborate a regional or sub-regional project on the use of treated wastewater in a manner that is compatible with environmental and health conditions;

- assist in the elaboration of sub-regional projects aimed at enhancing cooperation between neighboring countries on the management of natural resources (water, land and pastures); and

- encourage and promote investment by donors, international organizations, public and private sectors to improve the management of surface and ground waters; and

- consider the possibility of establishing a Regional Center for Drought Mitigation and Management, in a country of comparative advantage, and if decided, the Islamic Republic of Iran offered to host such Center.

3. Establishment of the Consultative Forum on Seed Policies and Programmes for the Near East and North Africa (CFS-NENA)

The Commission **called upon** Member Countries to:

- focus governmental actions on securing an effective mechanism for seed monitoring, registration, and certification, with an orientation to encourage the Private Sector to assume a more important role in seed production and marketing;

- adopt open regulations for voluntary certification using international and national standards to allow farmers and seed companies, as well as researchers to access better varieties, remove obstacles to seed exchange, reduce seed production costs and establish variety protection;

- design and implement seed policies and programmes to facilitate and support the involvement of private sector in crop breeding, including regulatory reforms, public research, and public/private collaboration;

- promote regional co-operation for development of seed industry, focusing on facilitating and rationalizing phyto-sanitary standards and quarantine procedures, promoting germplasm exchange, releasing new varieties for the Region and encouraging harmonization of seed regulations;

- provide adequate technical and financial support to the newly-established Seed Forum (CFS-NENA) through Governmental and private sector efforts;

- assign a national focal point for effective follow-up of the Forum activities;

- plan for manpower development through national and regional study programmes that are given for a degree, with emphasis on the in-service training.

The Commission **requested** FAO to:

- urgently strengthen the Seed Group of the AGP Division at FAO, in order to be more adequately qualified for providing the necessary technical assistance to Member Countries, as required;

- provide technical assistance and training to Member Countries in managing, conserving, utilizing, and certifying their plant genetic diversity; and

- help Member Countries to set up national seed policies conforming with their priorities and local conditions.

4. Report on the Implementation of the Decision to Establish the Near East Regional Animal Health Commission

The Commission **called upon** Member Countries to:

- support the technical role of the AHCNENA particularly the Interim Secretariat, including the fielding at short notice of qualified persons to undertake epidemiology investigations in responding to emergencies, in co-ordination with the Office of International Epizetology (OIE);

- support the Interim Secretariat of "AHCNENA" which is already hosted by the FAO Regional Office in Cairo, in order to assist the Regional Animal Production and Health Officer in effective and timely delivery of the Commission activities;

- consider the establishment of an FAO Trust Fund Arrangement in order to implement the Commission activities, such as:

    - support travel costs and expenses for any future Epidemiology Investigation Service/Emergency Response missions;
    - hold, at least, one annual regional meeting and one meeting for the Coordination Committee; and
    - undertake any consultancy missions, as well as the training and veterinary extension activities under the Commission auspices.

The Commission **requested** FAO to:

- provide, as soon as possible, to the newly-established AHCNENA Commission the required mandate under the framework of FAO.

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Organization of the Commission

1. The Second Session of the FAO Agriculture and Land & Water Use Commission for the Near East (ALAWUC) was held in Tehran, from 5 to 7 March 2002, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Commission was attended by 20 persons from 11 Member Countries, in addition to 17 Observers. The List of Participant is shown in Appendix B of this Report.

Inaugural Ceremony

2. The Commission was inaugurated on behalf of FAO by Mr. Abdur Rashid, FAO Representative in the Islamic Republic of Iran who welcomed the participants, conveying the wishes of the FAO Director-General Mr. Jacques Diouf and Mr. Atif Bukhari, Assistant Director-General / Regional Representative for the Near East, for a successful meeting. He expressed his thanks and appreciation for all assistance provided by the Iranian Ministry of Jihad-e Agriculture for their excellent facilities afforded to convening the Commission Session.

3. Mr. Abdur Rashid pointed out the significant importance of the ALAWUC Commission which came to existence in 1997 by an FAO Council decision, to merge the defunct Near East Commission on Agriculture (COAG) and the Near East Commission for Land and Water Use (LWUC). He drew the Commission's attention to the need for discussing the effective means for making ALAWUC most useful and sustainable for the benefit of all Member Countries.

4. The FAO Representative went on to stress the importance of the topics selected for discussion at the present Session and hoped that the participants would reach operable recommendations for furthering agricultural development in the Region.

5. In response, H. E. Amini Pouri, Deputy Minister for Land and Water, on behalf of the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture welcomed the participants and expressed his thanks for holding the Commission in his country. He briefed the meeting on the agricultural achievements in the Islamic Republic of Iran focusing on the Iranian experience in water resources management, flood spreading, effective methods of irrigation, including supplementary irrigation, as well as the constraints faced. He emphasized the relevance and importance of the topics of the Agenda in furthering agriculture and rural development towards better food security; while optimizing the use of natural resources. He expressed his hope that the meeting would reach practical recommendations to promote national and regional efforts for the development of agriculture, in general, and the fields under discussion, in particular.

Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Appointment of Rapporteur

6. The Commission unanimously elected H. E. Amini Pouri, Head of the Iranian Delegation as its Chairman. All other Heads of Delegations were elected as Vice-Chairmen. Mr. Fawzi Naiem Mahrous from the Arab Republic of Egypt was appointed as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda

7. The Commission considered and adopted the Provisional Agenda (Appendix A) and Provisional Timetable after moving to consider document ALAWUC/NE/02/4 as an Information Note in view of the absence of the staff member who was assigned to present it.

II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Action Taken on the Recommendations of the First Agriculture and Land & Water Use Commission for the Near East

8. The document ALAWUC/NE/02/2 "*Report on Action Taken by FAO on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the First ALAWUC Session*" was presented. The Commission hailed FAO and the Regional Office for the Near East for their commendable actions that were taken in order to implement the recommendations of the First Commission Session.

9. The Commission reviewed the implemented FAO Regional activities which focused on the sustainable management of water resources, including the use of non-conventional resources such as treated wastewater. The newly established *Regional Network on Wastewater Reuse* would need all possible support in order to be effective. Other activities include integrated plant nutrition management, guidelines for sustainable use of natural resources, updating of land and water databases for the Region. An update to the International Fertilizer Association/*World Fertilizer Use Manual* is underway, for making the Manual in more conformity with the Region's conditions; with an Arabic version for the updated Manual is also been envisaged.

10. The Commission was informed about the future programme of work for the Regional Office which will emphasize the "*priority areas approach*" that FAO would be involved in for the coming two Biennia. One of those areas, is the Drought Mitigation and Preparedness Planning. Towards this end, both FAO and Member Countries are urged to support the newly- launched *Regional Network on Drought Management for the Near East and North Africa*. Other major activities aim at improving water demand management in Member Countries.

11. The Commission stressed the need for strengthening the cooperation among national, regional and international organizations and centers concerned with land and water utilization and management, with due attention to soil conservation and efficient water delivery, use and managment systems. Of particular importance was the need for those organizations to have information exchange, co-ordination and standardization of methodologies, data sharing and linkages between databases.

12. The Commission noted that only very limited number of countries have responded to the Secretariat request for sending their views and comments on the " Water Policy Paper" that was presented at the 1st Session. The Commission **agreed** to re-send the said document to Member Countries to invite their contribution for consideration at the future Commission meetings, when addressing water policy issues.

13. The Commission **called upon** Member Countries who have not nominated a *focal point* to do so, in order to facilitate communication and ensure effective follow-up of the Commission activities.

14. Realizing the definite benefits and the coordinating role of networking, the Commission **urged** Member Countries to lend adequate technical and financial support to the newly-established *Regional Networks on Drought Management* and that on *Wastewater Reuse*.

15. Recognizing the instrumental role of investment in boosting agricultural outputs, the Commission **endorsed** the recommendations of the Regional Consultation held in October 2001 in Amman, Jordan and **urged** Member Countries to pay more emphasis on the investment in agriculture and particularly in land and water projects, for achieving better food security levels.

16. The Commission further **entrusted** the FAO in promoting the cause of food security at the coming International Conference on Financing Development scheduled in Mexico in March 2002, and to ask the donors community for more investment in Agriculture.

Utilization of Groundwater and Treated Wastewater in the Near East

17. The Commission considered Document ALAWUC/NE/02/3, entitled *"Utilization of Groundwater and Treated Wastewater in the Near East"*.

18. The Commission noted the fact that the Near East is characterized by severe water scarcity and the situation is likely to worsen unless drastic measures are taken. Economic growth and agriculture development depend on water resources, particularly with groundwater as the lead input in most countries. Shallow aquifers are becoming exhausted and water levels in deeper aquifers are falling beyond the economic and physical limits of pumping. Food production growth and the stability of rural populations will therefore rely on improving performance of irrigated agriculture, in addition to finding alternative sources of water (notably low-quality water resources) and developing non-farm incomes and food imports.

19. It was further noted that management of groundwater requires correct estimates, proper development, effective regulations, monitoring and protection of supplies to ensure the continued availability of this natural resource. The difficulty inherent to groundwater resources, the extent of aquifers beyond borders, the high cost incurred by their development all require sound policies at country level, as well as close co- operation between neighboring countries. External assistance and investments are also needed to supplement national and regional efforts to address water-related issues in a cost-effective manner.

20. Non-conventional water could be a strategic source for facing water scarcity in some deficiency areas through contributing in alleviating the constraints on fresh resources including groundwater. The importance of wastewater is gradually being accepted and the benefits are recognized, with several problems still persist. The absence or inadequacy of policy and planning, the lack of regulatory mechanisms and their enforcement and the low technical and institutional capacities to deal with wastewater reuse are the main concerns.

21. The Commission recognized that a momentum was created through recent programmes and joint activities by FAO and other parties which can be improved substantially through encouraging countries to take appropriate actions by setting standards, promoting better and affordable technologies, and providing technical assistance and training. The establishment of a *Regional Network on Wastewater Reuse in the Near East* is bound to help lift these constraints and promote the adoption of safe reuse of treated wastewater in the Region, by enhancing the exchange of experience and regional cooperation among Members Countries.

22. The Commission noted the importance of the topics treated by the paper, namely groundwater and treated wastewater, and their relevance to the Near East Region. They expressed their thanks to FAO for the analysis of issues discussed as they pertain to the Region; as well as for the support and assistance provided to Member Countries for addressing such issues.

23. Recognizing water shortage as a priority that needs particular attention from all stakeholders in the Region, participants endorsed content and recommendations of the paper, emphasizing the following aspects:

i. The importance of groundwater for food production, economic and rural development and drought mitigation in the Region; as well as the need to protect, conserve and use these valuable resources in a sustainable manner.

ii. The difficulty of planning and managing groundwater, the high costs incurred by groundwater management and monitoring, as well as the cost for rehabilitating deteriorated aquifers.

iii. The potential significant role offered by treated wastewater to alleviate the burden on fresh water resources, protect natural resources particularly water from pollution and to contribute to meeting food demand.

iv. The need for additional commitment, investment and technical assistance to build further the technical and managerial capacity of Member Countries to adequately plan and manage groundwater and treated wastewater, building on the experience gained in the Region and elsewhere.

24. The Commission **called upon** Member Countries to:

- give due particular attention to balanced utilization and management of groundwater in an integrated manner with surface water at the basin and aquifer level;

- undertake accurate quantitative and qualitative assessment of renewable groundwater resources that can be used in a sustainable manner at the aquifer level and build the capacity to do so as needed;

- promote the efficient and sustainable use of groundwater water and encourage farmers to adopt appropriate management of these resources through the establishment of Water Users Associations;

- develop and adopt policies and regulations for the controlled abstraction from groundwater based on estimated recharge rates;

- reserve non-renewable groundwater resources for supplementary irrigation and winter crops where applicable and under stringent conditions. In dry lands and areas vulnerable to drought, these resources should be allocated to the development of natural vegetable covers, particularly during dry spells, to safeguard animal resources and as a strategic measure against drought;

- pay due attention to explore economically-feasible technologies related to desalination of brackish and saline waters and the use of marginal waters, as alternatives to groundwater;

- focus national efforts to recharge groundwater aquifers through the utilization of floods and promote exchange of experience on this subject in the Region;

- asses the feasibility of using treated wastewater to recharge groundwater, ensuring the necessary water quality control measures;

- analyze and address the causes of water demand increase within the framework of sustainable water resources management;

- provide all possible support to the Regional Network on Wastewater Reuse; and

- give consideration to the improvement of small or micro watersheds, at the level of farms or groups of farms, focusing on technology transfer and adaptation.

25. The Commission **requested** FAO to:

- provide technical assistance, when requested, to build Member Countries capacities to manage groundwater aquifers and basins;

- establish a regional forum for cooperation and the exchange of experience on the development of water resources and their use, including groundwater;

- elaborate a regional or sub-regional project on the use of treated wastewater in a manner that is compatible with environmental and health conditions;

- assist in the elaboration of sub-regional projects aimed at enhancing cooperation between neighboring countries on the management of natural resources (water, land and pastures); and

- encourage and promote investment by donors, international organizations, as well as public and private sectors to improve the management of surface and ground waters; and

- consider the possibility of establishing a Regional Center for Drought Mitigation and Management, in a country of comparative advantage; and if decided, the Islamic Republic of Iran offered to host such Center.

Establishment of the Consultative Forum on Seed Policies and Programmes for the Near East and North Africa (CFS-NENA)

26. The Commission reviewed the document ALAWUC/NE/02/5 entitled *"Establishment of the Consultative Forum on Seed Policies and Programmes for the Near East and North Africa (CFS-NENA)"*.

27. The Commission recognized that most Governments in the Near East and North Africa Region have invested significant resources into strengthening their agricultural research systems, natural resources conservation and management, as well as provision of seeds and planting materials. Agricultural policies aimed at achieving increased productivity and food security were directed to develop strategies that guarantee the availability of locally-adapted varieties and quality seeds to farmers. Such objectives could be achieved through establishing sustainable seed supply systems with the participation of government, private sector, farmer groups and non-governmental organizations.

28. The status of 'national seed supply systems' varied from country to country, but largely focused on the public sector and relied heavily on subsidies; with very limited participation of private sector, except in few countries and for few crops. Despite more than three decades of investment in agricultural research and national seed supply systems through bilateral and multilateral organizations; the formal sector is currently unable to meet more than 10% of the farmers seed needs in the Region.

29. The analysis of national seed industries in 22 countries from the Near East revealed substantial variation in their seed programme development in terms of policy, regulations, institutional, and technical arrangements. Almost in all countries, seed production and supply for most cereals, legumes, vegetables, medicinal, aromatic and forage species is invariably underdeveloped and inadequate for meeting the farmers' seed needs. The assistance provided for crop germplasm conservation, utilization, enhancement and sustainable use of adapted local varieties are all considered essential means to safeguard the development of agriculture and seed sector in the Region. Therefore, the establishment of a "regional seed advisory body", to help in guiding the development of the seed industry in the Region, takes a paramount importance.

30. In response to this felt need, FAO co-sponsored a meeting in Larnaca, Cyprus in 1999 which was attended by 14 countries from the Region, in addition to concerned regional and international organizations. This Larnaca Meeting recommended the establishment of a *"Regional Consultative Forum on Seeds for the Near East and North Africa" (CFS –NENA)* to be under the aegis of FAO; and further formed an *Interim Co-ordination Committee (ICC)* consisting of six Working Group Co-ordinators for follow-up. The Interim Co-ordination Committee had its first meeting in Cairo in 2000 and discussed the Forum workplan, scope and duties of the established Working Groups. The latter meeting further decided to ask the

Government of Egypt, as the Interim Chairman of the ICC, to send the Meeting Report to FAO concerned divisions for their approval.

31. The Commission reiterated the role of the Seed Forum by focusing on:

i. Developing appropriate strategies for plant genetic resources collection, classification, conservation, effective utilization, as well as seed and plant certification;

ii. Giving due attention to Property Rights and the Farmers Rights, within the framework of concerned international agreements;

iii. Enhancing the professional and technical capabilities in Member Countries through promoting research, training and technology transfer;

iv. Setting a Timetable for the Forum activities and work programmes; and

v. Facilitating the role of private sector in the seed supply system, with particular emphasis on releasing new cultivars.

32. The Commission **called upon** Member Countries to:

- focus governmental actions on securing an effective mechanism for seed monitoring, registration, and certification, with an orientation to encourage the Private Sector to assume a more important role in seed production and marketing;

- adopt open regulations for voluntary certification using international and national standards to allow farmers and seed companies, as well as researchers to access better varieties, remove obstacles to seed exchange, reduce seed production costs and establish variety protection;

- design and implement seed policies and programmes to facilitate and support the involvement of private sector in crop breeding, including regulatory reforms, public research, and public/private collaboration;

- promote regional co-operation for development of seed industry, focusing on facilitating and rationalizing phyto-sanitary standards and quarantine procedures, promoting germplasm exchange, releasing new varieties for the Region and encouraging harmonization of seed regulations;

- provide adequate technical and financial support to the newly-established Seed Forum (CFS-NENA) through Governmental and private sectors;

- assign a country *focal point* for effective follow-up of the Forum activities; and

- plan for manpower development through national and regional study programmes, that are given for a degree, and the in-service training.

33. The Commission **requested** FAO to:

- urgently strengthen the Seed Group at the FAO Headquarters in Rome in order to be more adequately qualified to provide technical assistance to Member Countries, as required;

- provide technical assistance and training to Member Countries in managing, conserving, utilizing, and certifying their plant genetic diversity; and

- help Member Countries to set up national seed policies conforming with their priorities and local conditions.

Report on the Implementation of the Decision to Establish the Near East Regional Animal Health Commission

34. The Commission discussed the document ALAWUC/NE/02/6 entitled *"Report on the Implementation of the Decision to Establish the Near East Regional Animal Health Commission (AHCNENA)"*.

35. The Commission recognized that the strategy for improving animal health in the Region would support the inter-country cooperation in disease monitoring, reporting and emergency reaction for control of infectious diseases; thereby strengthening veterinary services capacity for addressing emergency situations in connection with new and re-emerging epizootics.

36. It was noted that the AHCNENA Commission objectives are to promote trade in healthy animals and safe animal products based on scientifically sound disease intelligence. The main technical activities envisaged includes: good national veterinary investigation services in the Region through RADISCON II and regional agencies, improving animal disease diagnostic capabilities; as well as upgrading of animal quarantine facilities and updating of trade regulations. An FAO Trust Fund arrangement is proposed for implementing the Regional Animal Health Commission related activities.

37. The Commission **called upon** Member Countries to:

- support the technical role of the AHCNENA particularly the Interim Secretariat including the fielding, at short notice, of qualified persons to undertake epidemiology investigations for responding to emergencies, in co-ordination with the Office of International Epizetology (OIE).

- support the "Interim Secretariat of AHCNENA", which is already hosted by the FAO Regional Office in Cairo, in order to assist the Regional Animal Production and Health Officer in effective and timely delivery of the Commission activities;

- consider the establishment of an FAO Trust Fund Arrangement in order to implement the Commission activities, such as:

    - support travel costs and expenses of any future requests for the Epidemiology Investigation Service/Emergency Response missions to Member Countries;

- hold, at least, one annual regional meeting and one annual Coordination Committee meeting; and
- undertake any consultancy missions or training and veterinary extension activities under the Commission auspices.

38. The Commission **requested** FAO to:

- To provide, as soon as possible, the newly-established AHCNENA Commission the required mandate under the framework of FAO.

III. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Information Notes

39. The following documents were circulated as Info Notes:

- *State of the World Reporting Process on Animal Genetic Resources*
- *Global and Regional Co-operation on Plant Health*
- *Emergency Assistance: Role of FAO in the Region*
- *Rural Development and Food Security in the Near Ease: Capacity Building of Stakeholders, including Nomads and Trans-humants*

Any Other Business

40. The Commission **requested** FAO to support and provide every technical assistance possible to the Palestinian National Authority in order to rehabilitate the agricultural sector and for preserving the natural resources, through assisting the Palestinian farmers to withstand the difficult conditions under occupation; as well as the need to follow-up the food security and poverty alleviation activities.

41. The Commission **urged** Member Countries who have not ratify the Regional Plant Protection Organization Agreement to do so, in order to announce officially the establishment of this important Organization for the Region.

Subjects for Discussion at the Third Session

42. The Commission considered various topics for discussion at the next Session of ALAWUC and **recommended** that the Agenda Items of the forthcoming Session to be selected from the following topics:

- Aquifer Management Approaches for sustainable utilization and management of groundwater resources.
- Promoting Irrigation Advisory Services and Training in Member Countries.

- Developing Guidelines for promoting balanced fertilization and integrated management of plant nutrients.

- The Region need for plant and animal genetic resources collection, conservation, classification, utilization and certification, systems.

- The role of livestock sub-sector in improving the livelihood of rural communities and the overall food security.

- Risk Management in Agriculture, including Drought Mitigation and Preparedness Planning.

- The Use of Bio-technology in Plant and Animal Breeding Programmes.

Date and Place of the Second Session

43. Since it is a standing FAO decision that the Meeting of ALAWUC be held back-to-back with the Regional Near East Conference; therefore, the date and venue of the 3rd Session would be decided and relayed to Member Countries once the date and venue of the next FAO Near East Conference is determined.

Adoption of the Report

44. The Commission **adopted** the Report after introducing some minor amendments.

Closure of the Session

45. The Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Ghassan Hamdallah, thanked the delegates and observers for their attendance and for their valuable deliberations and contributions. He also thanked the Chairman for his able conducting of the Session, the Rapporteur for preparing the report, the interpreters for potently providing an excellent job and to the Azadi Grand Hotel management for providing good facilities and services. He once again expressed his appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ministry of Jihad-e Agriculture, particularly the National Organizing Committee, for all the assistance provided. He further indicated that the FAO Regional Office would take the recommendations of the Commission into consideration when preparing its future work programme.

46. H.E. Amini Pouri, Chairman of the Second Session thanked the Rapporteur and FAO Secretariat for producing a well-structured and coherent report, which reflected the deliberations of the Session and contained distinct recommendations addressed to Member Countries and FAO. He also thanked FAO Secretariat for a well-organized meeting, well-prepared documents and excellent arrangements made for effecting the Commission to its successful conclusions.

47. The Chairman, after wishing all participants save journey home, declared the 2nd Session closed at 18:10 hrs. on 7 March 2002.

APPENDIX A

AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening of the Session
2. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Report of the Action Taken on Recommendations of the 1st ALAWUC Session
5. Groundwater Utilization for Food Security, including Reuse of Low Quality Water
6. Rural Development and Food Security: Capacity Building of Stakeholders including Nomads and Trans-humants
7. Establishment of the Inter-Governmental Consultative Forum for Seed Policies and Programmes for the Near East and North Africa (CFS-NENA)
8. Progress Report on the Implementation of the Decision to Establish the Near East Regional Animal Health Commission

III. OTHER MATTERS

9. The State of the World Reporting Process on Animal Genetic Resources
10. Global and Regional Cooperation on Plant Health
11. Emergency Assistance: Role of FAO in the Region

IV. CONCLUDING ITMES

12. Other Business
13. Proposed Subjects for discussion at the Third Session of ALAWUC
14. Adoption of the Report
15. Closure of the Session

(المرفق باء)

APPENDIX B

قائمة بأسماء المشاركين

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

الدول الأعضاء فى الإقليم
MEMBER NATIONS OF THE REGION

AFGHANISTAN **أفغانستان**

BAHRAIN **البحرين**

CYPRUS **قبرص**

Haris ZANNETIS
Agricultural Officer
Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
Nicosia

EGYPT **جمهورية مصر العربية**

Fawzi MAHROUS
Chairman of Agricultural Research Center
Cairo

فوزي نعيم محروس
رئيس مركز البحوث الزراعية
القاهرة

Ahmed Rashad KHATER
Director
Groundwater Research Institute
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TURKEMISTAN

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Typist/Clerk	Ms. Hebatallah FAHMY, RNEG
Logistics Officer	Mohammad EL TELBANI, RNEX

APPENDIX C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Title
ALAWUC/NE/02/1	Provisional Agenda
ALAWUC/NE/02/2	Report on Action Taken by FAO on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the 1st ALAWUC Session
ALAWUC/NE/02/3	Groundwater Utilization, including Low-Quality Water Reuse
ALAWUC/NE/02/4	Rural Development and Food Security: Capacity Building of Stakeholders including Nomads and Trans-humants
ALAWUC/NE/02/5	Establishment of the Inter-Governmental Consultative Forum for Seed Policies and Programmes for the Near East and North Africa (CFS-NENA)
ALAWUC/NE/02/6	Progress Report on the Implementation of the Decision to Establish the Near East Regional Animal Health Commission
ALAWUC/NE/02/INF/1	Information Note
ALAWUC/NE/02/INF/2	Provisional Timetable
ALAWUC/NE/02/INF/3	Provisional List of Documents
ALAWUC/NE/02/INF/4	State of the World Reporting Process on Animal Genetic Resources
ALAWUC/NE/02/INF/5	Global and Regional Cooperation on Plant Health
ALAWUC/NE/02/INF/6	Emergency Assistance: Role of FAO in the Region