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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST

Thirty-third Session

Rome, Italy 9-13 May 2016

Results and Priorities for FAO in the Near East and North Africa Region

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As foreseen in the programming, budgeting and result-based monitoring system put in place by the FAO Conference in 2009, the Organization's Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2014-17 was reviewed during 2014, taking into account trends and developments and their impacts on food systems, food security and nutrition. The review also covered policy thrusts for the second biennium of the planning period (2016-17) and the updated FAO results-based monitoring framework for measuring and reporting results. The MTP 2014-17 (reviewed) was approved by the FAO Conference in June 2015.

There has been strong and consistent support expressed by the FAO governing bodies during 2015 for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization in order to realize the full impact of the reviewed Strategic Framework.

The Regional Conference in its 32nd Session endorsed the three Regional Initiatives (RIs) in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region: (i) Water scarcity initiative; (ii) Building resilience for enhanced food security and nutrition; and (iii) Sustainable small-scale agriculture for inclusive development, as a means to address the regional priorities and further focus FAO's work for country-level impact and for resource mobilization within PWB 2014-15 and MTP 2014-17

The implementation of the Regional Initiatives (RIs) in 2014-15 highlighted their valuable contribution to focusing the FAO programmes in Countries, while leaving flexibility to respond to country priorities and emerging needs. The organization of FAO's work in the region under the three RIs has improved synergy and integration among activities and lead to a better understanding of FAO work across partners and member countries, strengthened regional networking around programmes and issues and improved monitoring and reporting of results. Going forward, country ownership and resources

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mobilization will be critical in scaling up the interventions under the regional initiatives and the CPFs and in achieving long lasting impacts.

One of the key priorities for FAO in the region in the 2016-17 biennium will be to help countries in pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Work will be carried out through the three regional initiatives at country level, guided by the Country Programming Frameworks. Emphasis will be on crisis-affected countries where well timed food security interventions can build resilience to conflict and may also contribute to conflict prevention or peace. Focus will also be given to scaling up activities, expanding agricultural employment and integrating social protection into agricultural strategies as well as guidance and capacity building related to agribusiness and food value chain development.

Guidance sought from the Regional Conference:

The Regional Conference may wish to:

Recognize the strategic planning process and take note of the alignment of FAO Strategic Objectives and Results Framework with the new Sustainable Development Goals contained in Agenda 2030; and urge the Organization to continue focusing the implementation of the programme of work on the priorities of the countries in 2016-17 and beyond.

Recognize the work completed under the three Regional Initiatives and the results achieved, in responding to the main challenges identified by the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference.

Take note of the analysis of major global and regional trends identified in the Regional Strategic Review conducted by FAO in Near East and North Africa and seek to enhance it further this year ahead of the planning for the next four years 2018-21.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. As foreseen in the programming, budgeting and results-based monitoring system put in place by the FAO Conference in 2009, the Organization's Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2014-17 was reviewed during 2014, taking into account trends and developments in the external environment and the guidance provided by the Regional Conferences¹, Technical Committees², Programme and Finance Committees and the Council³.

2. The MTP 2014-17 (reviewed) was approved by the FAO Conference in June 2015. The review of the MTP, carried out at the end of the first year of work under its four-year timeframe, covered recent trends and developments in the external environment including: the Post-2015 Development agenda, climate change, transboundary plant and animal pests and diseases, nutrition, urbanization, migration and impacts on food systems, food security and nutrition; the policy thrusts for the 2016-17 biennium; and the updated FAO results-based monitoring framework for measuring and reporting results.

3. The results framework guides the planning and monitoring of the Organization's work. At the core of the framework are the indicators that measure progress at each level of the results chain:

¹ As reported in C 2015/14, C 2015/15, C 2015/16, C 2015/17, C 2015/18, C 2015/LIM/1

² As reported in C 2015/21 COAG, C 2015/22 CCP, C 2015/23 COFI, C 2015/24 COFO

³ PC 117/5 – FC 157/7 and CL 150/REP paragraph 43c)

Outputs, Outcomes and Strategic Objectives. This provides the basis for assessing and reporting how FAO's actions contribute to changes at national, regional and global level.

4. There has been strong and consistent support expressed by the FAO governing bodies during 2015 for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization in order to realize the full impact of the Strategic Framework. Therefore, the overall results framework for 2014-17 remains in place (see Annex 1), with three main policy adjustments, elaborated in the MTP 2014-17 (reviewed) and the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2016-17⁴. These adjustments include: i) the title of Strategic Objective 4 has been shortened to read "Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems"; ii) nutrition and climate change have been designated as a cross-cutting themes under Objective 6; and iii) measures have been introduced to strengthen programme delivery and results, particularly at the country level.

5. The FAO governing bodies underlined the importance of articulating areas of programmatic emphasis and de-emphasis, taking into account priorities arising from the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees⁵, as well as the achievements and lessons learned from Regional Initiatives (RIs) implemented in 2014-15 and FAO's Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs). The priority areas of work for FAO in the Near East and North Africa Region for the 2016-17 biennium have been informed by these developments.

6. In addition, two important global developments in 2015 will frame FAO's work in the future: (i) the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted at the United Nations in Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda setting the framework for mobilizing the means of implementation, and (ii) the Paris Agreement, adopted as an outcome of the UN Global Climate Change Conference (COP21), which aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. In its 153rd session, the FAO Council welcomed the alignment of FAO's Strategic Framework with the SDGs, noting that there would be opportunity for bringing further coherence while preparing the MTP 2018-21.

7. The quadrennial review of the FAO Strategic Framework and preparation of a new MTP 2018-21 will take place during 2016, through the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees, for approval by the Council and Conference in the first half of 2017. In the context of continuity of the overall strategic direction of FAO, and taking account of the results in the region during 2014-15 and a forward-looking regional review, this offers the opportunity to further focus FAO's work aiming for more concrete results particularly at country level.

8. The document is divided into three sections:

- Section II outlines how priorities and issues requiring follow-up emanating from the previous Regional Conference have been addressed, bringing to the attention of the Members major achievements and results. .
- Section III sets out the priorities for FAO's work in the region during 2016-17, with a focus on Regional Initiatives.
- Section IV presents the outcome of a regional strategic review, which examined regional expression of global trends and specific regional trends that will have a bearing on FAO's future work in the region going forward, to be taken into consideration in preparing the FAO Medium Term Plan 2018-21.

⁴ C 2015/3 and CL 153/3 at www.fao.org/pwb

⁵ CL 150/LIM

II. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2014 REGIONAL CONFERENCE: ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

A. Priority areas of work in 2014-15

9. At its 32nd session, held in February 2014, the Regional Conference for the Near East considered the following main policy challenges for the region:

- a. Enhancing food security and nutrition and strengthening capacity to address vulnerability
- b. Protecting and managing natural resources and adapting to climate change
- c. Fostering sustainable and inclusive agricultural production
- d. Enhancing livelihoods of rural people, smallholders and vulnerable populations
- e. Developing efficient, sustainable and competitive food systems and reducing food losses and waste
- f. Increasing resilience of livelihood systems of communities and ecosystems to threats and crises

10. The Conference underlined the importance of data, information and knowledge sharing on food security and nutrition; addressing the gender gap in agriculture and rural sector; promoting regional cooperation to harness resilience to conflicts and improve the state of food insecurity and malnutrition; addressing climate change and combating droughts and desertification; supporting investment in food chain efficiency; and reducing food losses and wastes.

11. The Conference recognized the role of forests and rangelands and their role in enhancing synergies among the Rio Conventions, and noted the need for the work on the valuation of forests' contribution to sustainable development. The Conference acknowledged the role of FAO's Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) in promoting cooperation among its members for the development of fisheries and aquaculture, encouraging RECOFI members to ensure adequate funding to preserve the work of the Commission. The Conference also acknowledged the role of the Desert Locust Commission in the Central Region (CRC) in supporting countries in the implementation of the locust prevention and control strategies.

12. To address the major priorities arising, and as a means to address the regional priorities and further focus FAO's work for country-level impact and mobilize resources, the Regional Conference endorsed three Regional Initiatives: Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition; Small-Scale Agriculture for Inclusive Development; and Water Scarcity Initiative.

13. FAO's interventions under the three Regional Initiatives (RIs) have been supported by the technical teams at Headquarters and decentralized offices, as well as strategic use of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). Actions taken under these RIs contributed to the achievement of outputs under the five Strategic Objectives and to reach the established targets. The regional achievements as a contribution to FAO's corporate outputs are shown in a Web Annex⁶.

14. *The Regional Initiative on Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition (RI-FSN)* has been designed to coordinate and reinforce the efforts of FAO and partners to assist member countries in reducing food insecurity, improving nutrition and strengthening resilience at regional, country,

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mq012e.pdf>

community and household level. The programme is guided by the Regional Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, which was endorsed by the 32nd Session of NERC. Focus countries are: (i) countries affected by the Syria crisis (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria); (ii) crisis-prone countries (Libya, Sudan and Yemen⁷) in addition to the West Bank and Gaza Strip (WBGS); and (iii) countries in transition (Egypt and Mauritania).

15. The overall objective of the *Regional Initiative on Small-Scale Agriculture for Inclusive Development* (RI-SSA) is to reduce rural poverty by promoting and supporting inclusive small-scale agricultural development, with special attention to governance and institutions, including, access of smallholders to social protection, rural services and markets, strengthening the capacities of producers' organizations and promoting youth employment and sustainable value chain development.

16. *The Regional Water Scarcity Initiative* (RI-WSI) addresses key regional problems of water scarcity, unsustainable groundwater use, growing risks from climate change and the need to obtain the maximum benefit from every drop of water in order to boost incomes and improve food security. The Initiative comprises a range of interventions to protect and sustainably manage scarce water resources, improve efficiency and productivity of water use, promote equitable allocation and use of water and manage effectively disaster risks, including droughts.

B. Key Achievements and Lessons Learned

17. *The Regional Initiative on Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition* follows a regional approach to strengthening resilience to crises and shocks through: (i) building the evidence base to support policy and strategy; (ii) promoting strategies to build resilience of countries, communities and institutions to shocks and crises; (iii) supporting approaches to address underlying long-term factors driving risk, disasters and crises; and (iv) promoting regional cooperation to collectively address crises and shocks.

18. Country-specific plans of action with a strong resilience component were developed and implemented for Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan, WBGS and Yemen. The Subregional Strategy and Action Plan for "Resilient Livelihoods for Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security in Areas Affected by the Syria Crisis" and the respective country action plans have been under implementation since 2013 and are regularly updated and revised. Under the Initiative, programmes for preventing transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases, including improving preparedness for the desert locust and avian influenza control, have been supported in Egypt, Lebanon, Sudan and Yemen.

19. On the policy dialogue and regional collaboration, through the *Initiative* FAO facilitated a regional dialogue among member countries, civil society, the League of Arab States and development partners on food security and nutrition issues, including the effects of conflicts and protracted crises on the region. A Regional Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition was organized jointly with the Committee on World Food Security and the World Food Programme. FAO also supported the preparation and implementation of food security strategies in Mauritania, Sudan and Yemen.

20. The Initiative gave priority to developing reliable food and nutrition security data and information and knowledge exchange for decision support systems. A regional-level food security information network (Regional Food Security Analysis Network) has been established to strengthen emergency food security and livelihood support interventions in countries affected by the Syria crisis. At the national level, FAO supported the strengthening of food security and early warning information systems in Sudan and Yemen. Support in assessments (food security and livelihoods, crop and food supply, damage and loss) were provided to Syria, Sudan, Yemen and Palestine. In addition, support was provided in vulnerability analysis and resilience measurement in Palestine, Mauritania and Jordan.

⁷ Libya has been added in 2016/17

21. FAO is supporting implementation of the Regional Strategic Framework for Food Loss and Waste Reduction, endorsed by the 32nd Session of NERC. A regional network for exchange of knowledge and experience on food loss and waste reduction has been established. Capacity building interventions for food loss reduction and risk analysis in import inspection and for national food standard setting have been initiated in Egypt, Iran, Jordan and Lebanon.
22. On nutrition, through the Initiative FAO supported countries (including Egypt, Iran and Sudan) in setting up national multistakeholder committees to follow up on the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). FAO supported interventions in Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, promoting sustainable access of households and communities to safe, nutritious and diversified food, in particular by integrating nutrition education to food production decisions.
23. *The Regional Initiative on Small-Scale Agriculture* was piloted during the 2014-15 biennium in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia. In this context, a baseline study was conducted to identify and analyse the typology of smallholders in the NENA region, identify the constraints and barriers they are facing and build the evidence base to support policies and strategies for sustainable and inclusive development of the small scale agriculture sector in the region. In addition, FAO piloted interventions that address key areas of emphasis: governance and institutions, capacities of producer organizations and youth employment.
24. On governance and institutions, major achievements include the harmonization of the legal and institutional frameworks governing producer organizations in livestock and fisheries in the Arab Maghreb Union. FAO is supporting the Government of Egypt in the reform of the cooperatives legal and institutional framework. Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security were promoted in Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia.
25. Through the Initiative, FAO conducted several training and capacity building interventions in Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia aiming at strengthening the managerial capacities and the professionalization of producer organizations. An e-learning platform for producer organizations in the Maghreb countries was established with the aim to facilitate their access to knowledge and promote experience sharing among the various stakeholders. FAO also supported projects in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia aimed at improving smallholders' productivity through improved extension systems and support to access to markets. As part of the sub-regional youth employment programme in Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, diagnostics on the situation of rural youth employment, challenges and opportunities has been initiated. The generated knowledge will provide the basis for the development and implementation of a decent rural youth employment strategy in the agricultural sector in the target countries.
26. *The Regional Water Scarcity Initiative* supported the implementation of the "Regional Collaborative Strategy on Sustainable Agricultural Water Management and Food Security" endorsed by the 32nd Session of NERC.
27. In this context FAO provided support to the Arab Water Security Strategy which was officially endorsed in June 2015 by the Arab Ministerial Council for Water of the League of Arab States. A regional partnership including the NENA countries and regional and international organizations active in water management is functional, and a "Regional Collaborative Platform" for sharing knowledge, information and data has been established.
28. Assessments of agriculture water productivity using food production and supply cost curves to determine the comparative advantage in food production have been conducted in five countries (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Oman and Tunisia). In order to support countries in tracking and monitoring water efficiency and productivity, FAO has initiated actions to develop systems for benchmarking, monitoring and reporting on water use, including through remote sensing.

29. Responding to NERC-32 recommendations, FAO partnered with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) under the framework of the Initiative to support the introduction of new techniques to improve water efficiency in pilot sites in rainfed and dryland systems in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

30. In the framework of the initiative, FAO has also partnered with the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) and other research partners to initiate a pilot project to support a regional platform on drought management and climate change and to support national drought policies and programmes in Egypt Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco

31. Through the *Initiative* FAO has supported the introduction of solar energy to reduce irrigation costs in Egypt and Yemen. Similar interventions are contemplated in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria during the 2016-17 biennium. At the same time, FAO is working with partners on guidance to optimize the use of solar energy in irrigation and reduce its potential negative impacts on ground water.

32. FAO supported the decentralization of water governance in Yemen and the strengthening of the role and capacities of the water users associations and of the Sanaa basin authority. The project is expected to be scaled-up to other water basins in the future.

33. Under the framework of the initiative, FAO is partnering with ICBA and ICARDA to support the establishment of the Agricultural Innovation Center (AIC) of the UAE as a regional centre of excellence for the research and development on the potential of protected agriculture to cut water consumption in the GCC States.

34. During the 2014-15 biennium, the resources mobilized for the NENA countries amounted to USD 81.6 million in 2014 and USD 72.7 million in 2015 bringing the total delivery for the biennium to USD 154.3 million, a 7.6% increase compared to 2012-13 biennium. Resource mobilization efforts in the region pose a significant challenge due to political instability and insecurity in several countries. In addition, the donor resources base for the region remains narrow. A major positive development has been the provision by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of USD 19.5 million to support FAO resilience programmes in Iraq and Yemen.

35. Three key lessons emerged from the implementation of the three Regional Initiatives in 2014-15: i) The prioritization of goals set by NERC helped focus FAO activities around strategic targets and results, and has dramatically improved the work planning and efficiency in resource allocation; (ii) The organization of the work of the Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (RNE) under the three RIs has improved synergy and integration among activities and lead to a better understanding of FAO work across partners and member countries, strengthened regional networking around programmes and issues and improved monitoring and reporting of results; iii) Going forward, country ownership and resources mobilization will be critical in scaling up the interventions under the regional initiatives to achieve long lasting impacts.

III. MAIN AREAS OF WORK IN the region during 2016-17

36. Based on the Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs), the main targets for the 2016-17 biennium, linked to the Strategic Objective outputs, have been identified by the country offices. This target setting was the main pillar in identifying regional and country priorities, along with achievements and lessons learned from the regional initiatives.

37. In the NENA region, CPFs and the three RIs are generally well aligned. All 16 CPFs have results in line with RI-FSN. Eleven out of 16 CPFs have outcomes and outputs aligned with RI-WSI, while seven CPFs have outputs linked to RI-SSA. .

38. Through the Regional Initiative on Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition (RI-FSN), FAO will strengthen its intervention along its five main focus areas of work: Food Security Information systems; Food Security Policy and institutions; resilience building interventions; food

losses and wastes and plant and pest diseases control. In this context, the initiative will develop and implement a second phase of the Regional Food Security and Nutrition Information System for the Syria crisis. The initiative will continue to support countries in the region in strengthening their capacities in the formulation and implementation of food security policy frameworks, strategies and investment plan. The initiative will scale-up its support to crises-affected countries (Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya) in addition to Sudan and WBS, through timely and effective interventions that build resilience to food insecurity and contribute to conflict prevention and peace building⁸. The RIFSN will support the implementation of the NENA Regional Strategic Framework for Food Loss and Waste Reduction with particular emphasis on building an evidence-base to underpin policies, strategies, and programmes for food loss reduction, in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. The initiative will pursue the implementation of a regional animal health programme and continue to provide support to enhance the capacities of countries to address transboundary plant pests, including desert locusts and red palm weevil.

39. Under the Regional Initiative on Small-Scale Agriculture (RI-SSA), main areas of FAO work in the next biennium include support to small holder productivity and access to markets; promotion of inclusive agrifood value chains; capacity building and professionalization of producer organizations; social protection and youth employment. The initiative will support development of tools for capacity building related to agribusiness, food value chain, market linkages, sustainable access to rural services and investment; technical and managerial support to promote inclusive, efficient and sustainable agrifood chains for specific commodities having an important economic value for the communities and the economy of the country. The RI-SSA will support of the adoption and dissemination of innovations, through strengthening of producer associations and the development of farmer field schools in twelve countries. The initiative will also support the expansion of agriculture employment, in particular for youth, the integration of social protection in agriculture strategy and advocate the extension of social protection coverage to rural workers.

40. The Regional Initiative on Water Scarcity (RI-WSI) will scale up its support to strategic planning and policies, capacity building on water accounting, water productivity monitoring, drought management and groundwater governance. Innovation in water management will be strengthened with support to development of hydroponics (particularly in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries) and agri-aquaculture for arid ecosystems, in particular in Algeria and Egypt; and to adoption of drought-tolerant crops (such as quinoa). The initiative will support large scale adoption and use of solar energy for irrigation in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Through RI-WSI, FAO and partners will develop climate change scenarios region-wide and support sustainable agricultural water management and a region-wide soil information system. Work on benchmarking, monitoring and evaluation will continue.

IV. PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

41. In the interest of effectively incorporating regional specificities in the preparation of the MTP 2018-21, a strategic review was carried out in each region, to identify the special problems of the region and priority areas of work in the future. Each Regional Office undertook an internal strategic reflection exercise with the participation of high level experts and FAO staff in the region. The result is a Regional Strategic Review Paper⁹, which provides an overview of major regional challenges and regional manifestations of global challenges expected to influence FAO's work in the region over the next 10-15 years. The main trends and challenges are summarized below.

⁸ In October 2015, the Committee on World Food Security adopted a Framework for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises which included a principle on contributing to peace-building through food security.

⁹ See web annex

A. Main trends emerging from the regional strategic review

42. The review identified four long-term global trends which have regional implications: (i) high population growth rates, continued urbanization and the large number of new entrants to the labour market each year with implication for youth unemployment and migration; (ii) slowing global economic growth and continuing decline in commodity prices, including oil, which is the main export product of the region; (iii) natural resource constraints to agricultural production, particularly water; and (iv) global warming, climate change and environmental degradation in developing countries, with possible multiple ripple effects on food availability and food and energy prices.

43. The review also identified five regional trends: (i) conflict and upheaval and related social and economic impacts, in particular forced displacement and migration; (ii) sluggish economic growth, poor fiscal outlook and low investor confidence, (iii) rising levels of import dependence and exposure to market shocks, including dependence on energy exports for oil-producing countries in the region and consequent vulnerability; (iii) impoverishment and inequity especially for females and youth; (iv) malnutrition; and (v) transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases. .

44. With continued population growth, both global and regional demand for food continue to rise. Supply-side risks are exacerbated in the region by threats from conflict and weak regional integration. Domestic food production is affected by economic, technical and natural resource constraints limiting productivity and by growing risks from pests and diseases. Many countries lack comparative advantage for expanding food production. Most NENA countries will thus remain dependent on food imports and will be vulnerable to price and supply risks. Slow progress on World Trade Organization (WTO) requirements on reducing subsidies and protection, limited intraregional food trade and weak integration to global food markets are further risk factors.

45. Demand for food is affected by population growth, rural-urban migration and by changes in consumption patterns. Changes in energy prices also affect food prices, and have impacts on national and household revenues. Most significantly, food security is under serious threat in many countries as a result of continuing internal and subregional conflict.

B. Priority areas of FAO action for the future

46. These factors increase the importance of FAO's work on building resilience, small scale agriculture and water scarcity as priority areas of action, to help countries in the region realize the SDGs and Paris Agreement climate targets.

47. Work to build resilience for food security and nutrition will help countries cope with and limit the negative effects of conflicts, including displacement, migration and irreversible losses of social and human capital, contributing to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture. Particular focus will need to be given to: (i) strengthening the role of the agriculture sector and rural livelihoods as stabilizers of the economy and in peace building ii) regional cooperation and integration in response both to crises and to long-term food security needs; (iii) risk management instruments to mitigate supply-side shocks; (iv) efficient and sustainable food systems, strengthening integration and efficiency along the value chain and reducing losses and wastage; (v) mainstreaming nutrition into programmes; and (vi) mainstreaming gender.

48. Emerging pressures and risks call for deepening of approaches to small scale agriculture for inclusive development. Building the evidence base on the role of various typologies of small holders in food security, economic growth and employment and understanding the linkages between land fragmentation, aging farmers population, social protection and migration trends will be critical inputs for sustainable small scale agriculture development strategies. Re-engaging smallholders in production particularly in post-conflict economic development will be priority. Regional integration and joined-up agricultural policies within and amongst countries are increasingly required. The vital role of women in farming and household food security and the imperative of youth employment need to be factored into policy and programmes. Decentralization and local-level institutional development are essential.

Evidence-based policies and research and extension for the whole value chain are required to improve productivity and incomes and help farmers better manage risk, including from climate change. Farmer organizations and effective learning through farmer-field-schools remain priorities. In extreme cases, structured support to out-migration will be needed.

49. Future agricultural growth and sustainability require countries to reverse natural resource degradation. This will require robust governance, linked to improved productivity along with sustainability and equitable access. Rising demand and climate change will place growing stress on irrigated agriculture. There will be a need to strengthen approaches to address water scarcity, including: expanding the knowledge base for irrigation efficiency and water productivity; support to irrigation decentralization and modernization, building institutions and capacity at the local level and involving women in decisions and management; support to water conserving technologies; raising economic returns to water by improvements to the whole value chain; and support country programmes for groundwater.

50. Reducing degradation of soils, forests and rangelands requires engaging communities as partners, building local institutions and capacity, and testing and promoting models for sustainable use, including payment for environmental services. Protection of biodiversity will require knowledge of the resource, assessment of threats and implementation of protection strategies.

51. All NENA countries will be vulnerable to climate change which will intensify water scarcity and aridity, bringing higher temperatures, more heat waves, lower and less reliable precipitation and more extreme rainfall events. This will lead to increased frequency of droughts and floods and increased erosion. In addition, global warming will lead to rising sea levels and seawater intrusion.

52. For the future, best practice responses under uncertainty are needed for efficient and sustainable land and water management, and institutional decentralization and empowerment of stakeholders. There is a role for FAO to help countries to strengthen climate modelling and develop and apply adaptation strategies and to access financing for adaptation and mitigation. Beyond that, the agenda will include support to decentralization and local participatory governance of natural resources, including water, and helping countries prepare the rural economy for transitioning out of agriculture.

Annex 1. Main components of FAO's results framework**FAO's vision**

A world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

Three Global Goals of Members:

- eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, progressively ensuring a world in which people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods; and
- sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Strategic Objectives

1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner
3. Reduce rural poverty
4. Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Additional Objective

6. Technical quality, knowledge and services

Cross-cutting Themes

Gender

Governance

Nutrition

Climate change

Core Functions

1. Facilitate and support countries in the development and implementation of normative and standard-setting instruments, such as international agreements, codes of conduct, technical standards and others
2. Assemble, analyse, monitor and improve access to data and information, in areas related to FAO's mandate
3. Facilitate, promote and support policy dialogue at global, regional and country levels
4. Advise and support capacity development at country and regional levels to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate evidence-based policies, investments and programmes

5. Advise and support activities that assemble, disseminate and improve the uptake of knowledge, technologies and good practices in the areas of FAO's mandate
6. Facilitate partnerships for food security and nutrition, agriculture and rural development between governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector

Functional Objectives

Outreach

Information technology

FAO governance, oversight and direction

Efficient and effective administration