The 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) in 2016 welcomed the actions undertaken and results achieved during 2014-2015 to address regional priorities, particularly through the four Regional Initiatives endorsed by the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference, which had helped to focus FAO’s work while allowing flexibility to respond to country priorities and emerging needs. The conference underlined the need for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization and appreciated the alignment between the FAO Strategic Objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The member countries supported continuation of the Regional Initiatives for the 2016-2017 biennium to help focus FAO actions on the priorities of the region.

The Asia and the Pacific region, despite impressive economic growth, is home to 490 million people still suffering from chronic hunger and it accounts for 62 percent of undernourished people in the world. The 33rd Session of the APRC addressed related factors such as population growth, urbanization and change of dietary patterns, issues of malnutrition and food safety, climate change and disaster risks, unsustainable production and environmental degradation – all of which further complicate the fight against hunger and malnutrition. In order to achieve FAO’s mandate related to the SDG Goals, there is a need for placing sustainable agriculture and food systems at the centre of the agenda while applying the five principles of sustainable food and agriculture. In this regard, FAO plans to undertake to support member countries in achieving SDGs through five Regional Initiatives in 2018-2019, notably Zero Hunger, Blue Growth, Climate Change, One Health, and the Interregional Initiative on Small Island Developing States for the Pacific, which obtained endorsement at the 40th Session of the FAO Conference in July 2017.
REGIONAL INITIATIVE ON ZERO HUNGER (RI-ZH)

The accelerated delivery of RI-ZH with collective efforts from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), FAO headquarters and FAO Representations focuses on supporting Members in eradicating hunger and all forms of malnutrition at country, subregional and regional levels. In the last biennium, this was achieved through work on 1) Political commitment of Members and national coverage on the Zero Hunger Challenge strengthened and expanded with RI-ZH’s support; 2) Regional dimension and activities integrated and enhanced under RI-ZH; and 3) Agricultural diversification and sustainable intensification (e.g. Future Smart Food /Neglected and Underutilized Species for Zero Hunger). The results were achieved thanks to the significant efforts on partnerships-building, multidisciplinary and evidence-based analysis for decision-making and promoting knowledge sharing among countries.

In 2018-2019, the RI-ZH will focus on supporting the member countries in the Asia and the Pacific region to achieve their policy, institutional and technical capacity to manage agriculture and food systems that promote sustainable agriculture; increase diversified, integrated and nutritious food supply and consumption; and reduce food losses and waste towards eradication of hunger and malnutrition nationally and regionally. The FAO priority activities in the RI-ZH aimed at supporting countries in achieving the SDGs include:

- Creating an enabling environment for improved Food Security and Nutrition, through development and reviewing of regional/national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and investment plans (through the Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation [FIRST] policy assistance facility); strengthening the capacity of existing multisectoral coordination mechanisms at national level as well as with regional bodies; organizing policy dialogues among strategic partners, preparing knowledge products (e.g. policy guidance notes), and promoting knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising;
- Data collection, monitoring and analysis of food security and nutrition, prevalence of undernourishment; food availability and access; food loss and waste and sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries, in line with SDG indicators;
- Strengthening the national capacity for sustainable agriculture and food systems through supporting policy dialogue, review and development of policies, programmes and projects promoting agriculture diversification and sustainable intensification, while reducing environmental degradation e.g. through mixed farming systems such as agroforestry, agro-ecological approaches, etc. Improved farming systems to sustainably increase productivity; particularly of smallholders, e.g. through farmer field schools; developing regional guidelines on Future Smart Food/neglected and underutilized species; and consumption for healthy diets, e.g. Dairy Asia; strengthening agriculture and food systems in marginal areas (e.g. regional strategy on mountain agriculture development), and reducing food loss and waste.

REGIONAL INITIATIVE ON BLUE GROWTH (RI-BG)

Blue economic growth with sustainable development of capture fisheries and aquaculture can contribute substantially to the SDGs closely related to food security and improved nutrition and eradication of poverty. With the RI-BG, FAO will continue to support member countries in the Asia and the Pacific region to achieve blue economic growth through responsible management and efficient use of water related natural resources. Specifically, the RI will support member countries to effectively address the key issues in achieving sustainable aquaculture growth and responsible capture fisheries through regional and country-level policy and strategy development and technical interventions at country level. In 2018-2019, FAO will support the implementation of RI-BG in the following priority work areas:

Support member countries to improve fisheries management and protect aquatic ecosystems through:
- addressing Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing through development and implementation of National Plans of Action (NPOAs), Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and other relevant international instruments;
- developing regional strategy and programme to address IUU through Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) consultations;
- supporting the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) second phase programme document development and implementation of Indonesian Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (ISLME) with strengthened regional cooperation; and
- promoting Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), fisheries co-management and aquatic biodiversity and habitat conservation in member countries through effective implementation of ongoing Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects and development of new GEF, and Green Climate Fund (GCF) projects to support countries.

Support member countries to scale up innovative aquaculture and fisheries production and management systems and practices for more efficient and sustainable production through an intersectoral food system approach:
- scaling up of innovative agro-aquaculture (rice-fish, rice-shrimp and aquaponics) in the member countries and developing and disseminating knowledge products;
- conduct regional study and workshop to promote the use of information and communication tools for improved fisheries management; and
- produce and disseminate knowledge projects on aquaculture planning and management tool application to member countries.
Support member countries to strengthen inclusive and gender-sensitive fisheries and aquaculture value chains through:

- improved access of small actors to input and market more equitable share to the benefits along the entire value chain;
- conducting country case studies on the participation of women and youth in the fish value chain, with the overall aim of formulating targeted interventions to address specific constraints;
- supporting the 7th Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries; and
- supporting the member countries to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and develop their capacity for implementing and monitoring SDG 14.

Support the region to build resilience of fisheries and aquaculture sectors through:

- building capacity, designing a development strategy and adopting good practices for fisheries and aquaculture climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- the development and adoption of appropriate insurance for resilience of fishing and fish farming households through regional technical consultation and country support; and
- addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) risks related to aquaculture in the region through a regional consultation and related country investigation in collaboration with the RAP One Health Initiative.

integration of agriculture and food security into the global climate change agenda; and strengthening FAO’s work on climate change. A revised Action Plan Results Framework for the Strategy was endorsed by the FAO Programme Committee in November 2017 and sets forth output indicators for FAO to support countries with nationally determined contributions (NDC) implementation, enhance access to finance and better integrate agriculture and food security into national climate change and DRR policies, strategies and programmes – among others. FAO also supports countries in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: particularly relevant for Asia where most of the disasters are climate-related.

The Regional Initiative on Climate Change (RI-CC) will support the FAO Strategy on Climate Change and Action Plan Results Framework at the regional and national levels. The RI-CC directly responds to member-country emphasis during the 33rd Session of the APRC on the importance of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement in guiding future actions in agriculture, food security and nutrition. It will also contribute to the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), through regional evidence and knowledge sharing for more climate policy action in SIDS.

The RI-CC Programmatic Work Areas (PWAs) in 2018-2019 align to the outcomes of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change and include:

PWA 1: Enhance capacities of member countries in the Asia and the Pacific region to implement and monitor measures, identified in their NDCs and national policies, to scale up adaptation, enhance resilience and reduce emissions for the agriculture sectors.

PWA 2: Improve the integration of food security, agriculture, forestry and fisheries within national and regional implementation of the international climate change and DRR agenda within the framework of the SDGs.

PWA 3: Strengthen FAO regional leadership in climate-smart agriculture and related resilience building technologies and practices, knowledge sharing and partnership building, including mechanisms for management of climate-induced crisis risks.

REGIONAL INITIATIVE ON ONE HEALTH (RI-OH)

The One Health approach addresses complex and interconnected problems in a holistic manner. The One Health approach emerged in response to zoonotic diseases that pose a threat to human health, often leading to emergency situations. However, other health-related problems that are less urgent, but complex, will also benefit from One Health frameworks. The links with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as pesticide residues, plant pest and disease outbreaks and cross-sectoral issues such as malnutrition have so far not been addressed. The opportunity to ensure human health through food safety and food security issues are not well touched upon, and can benefit from One Health perspectives. The One Health concept is also needed to progress towards sustainable agriculture and food systems and balanced diets derived from these systems, a key priority for FAO in the Decade of Action for Nutrition (2016-2025) and in the context of the SDGs. Trade is also of particular significance in the fast growing Asia and the Pacific region. A One Health approach will integrate the development and improvement of risk management systems for regulating the safe movement of animals, plants and food. This demands coordination with key national partners from agriculture, health, phytosanitary, veterinary and quarantine agencies.

The expansion of the scope of One Health will thus address this continuum of risks and contribute to enhancing the overall health of humans, animals, plants and the ecosystem.
THE INTERREGIONAL INITIATIVE (IRI) ON SIDS – Pacific Component
(RI-SIDS Pacific)

In response to paragraph 61 of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and in close collaboration with UN partners and member countries, FAO led the development of the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States which was officially launched at the 40th Session of the FAO Conference and was endorsed by the Conference as one component of the IRI for the 2018-2019 Biennial Theme – Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO.

The Interregional Initiative (IRI) is FAO’s delivery mechanism for the implementation of the GAP. It focuses on the thematic areas of the GAP in which FAO has a lead role to play. IRI builds on FAO’s existing projects and programmes by promoting and supporting coordinated action and knowledge sharing, facilitating exchange of best practices, and serving as a mechanism for the extension of a common set of tools and approaches across the Pacific, the Caribbean, and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas (AIMS) regions. Reflecting the spirit of the GAP, the IRI places particular emphasis on promotion of South-South Cooperation and developing partnerships within and outside the UN system, joining forces with other agencies, regional organizations, governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector. It will add value by promoting interregional and intraregional collaboration to address the need and demand of the three SIDS regions.

FAO priority outcomes for the Pacific SIDS addressed through the Pacific component of the IRI in 2018-2019 aim at supporting countries in achieving the SDGs and include:

- **Strengthened evidence-based information to support multisectoral policy action**
  - Sharing of evidence, experiences and lessons learned from effective policies and approaches at national, regional, and interregional levels; developed comprehensive systems for monitoring trends in food availability and consumption, and nutrition and health outcomes in the region, in order to increase political commitment across sectors, and analyse the impact of policies and programmes, and to guide and strengthen future investments.

- **Enhanced multisectoral commitment and action**
  - Pacific SIDS have highlighted the need for enhanced support to ensure sustained political commitment across all relevant sectors, to improve multisectoral coordination and coherence of national responses, and to strengthen human and institutional capacities to achieve food security and nutrition goals.

- **Improved sustainability, resilience, and nutrition-sensitivity of Pacific SIDS food systems**
  - Sustainable management of coastal fisheries, oceanic and land resources based on agro-ecological principles, coordinated with improved productivity, efficiencies, and food safety and quality along value chains have been identified as key priorities.

- **Actions scaled up to improve food security and nutrition among key target groups**
  - Pacific SIDS leaders have identified the empowerment of individuals, families, and communities as an essential component of the regional approach to food security and nutrition. Priority areas in which greater cooperation is needed include: improving access of small-scale farmers and enterprises, particularly women and youth, to knowledge, awareness-raising about malnutrition including obesity and NCDs and improved diets and the development of relevant crops and commercially viable value-added locally produced products, resources, services and market opportunities; and improving the targeting, effectiveness, and nutrition-sensitivity of social protection programmes.