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Agenda item 14

Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region

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I. Introduction

1. The Thirty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference in June 2013 approved the Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-19 as well as the Director-General's Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 (MTP/PWB).¹ The Strategic Framework includes FAO's Vision, the revised Global Goals, the five new Strategic Objectives, as well as a sixth objective on technical quality, knowledge and services and the cross-cutting themes of gender and governance (see Annex 1 for the main components of FAO's Results Framework). The MTP/PWB sets out the results framework with outcomes, outputs and measurable indicators of achievement. The FAO Conference emphasized that the five Strategic Objectives represented those areas of work on which FAO will focus its efforts in support of Member Nations and welcomed their cross-cutting nature which will enable the Organization to work in a multidisciplinary and integrated manner.²

2. Priorities for FAO Activities in Asia and the Pacific have been informed by three major strategy streams:

- 1) FAO's reviewed Strategic Framework and new Medium-Term Plan, which contain the core elements of FAO's results framework for organizing the response to priorities in the region.
- 2) FAO regional priorities in Asia and the Pacific as outlined in the Regional Priority Framework (RPF) endorsed by the 31st Session of APRC, which puts into sharp focus the region-specific needs in the context of FAO's Strategic Objectives.
- 3) FAO's Country Programming Frameworks, which inform the identification of regional priorities and constitute an important and dynamic pillar of the Organization's delivery mechanism.

3. In 2013, the Organization piloted a set of six Regional Initiatives (one in the Asia and Pacific Region) as delivery mechanisms to enhance the focus and impact of its work, particularly at the country level. Taking account of the pilot experience, additional Regional Initiatives have been elaborated to focus delivery of results in 2014-2015. These initiatives are intended to address key regional and country priority problems by delivery of relevant products and services at regional and country levels contributing to achievement of the agreed outputs of the MTP/PWB.

4. FAO's results framework is underpinned by a new corporate monitoring and evaluation framework with a distinct set of indicators for three interlinked levels of results – Strategic Objectives, Organizational Outcomes and Outputs.³ This monitoring and evaluation framework will strengthen FAO's corporate reporting from the 2014-15 biennium onwards. While the new monitoring and evaluation framework cannot be directly applied in the review of achievements for the biennium 2012-13 in this document (see Section II), it will inform the discussion of priorities for the region for 2014-2015 and beyond.

5. This report is divided into three substantive sections:

- Section II outlines how priorities and items requiring follow-up emanating from the previous Regional Conference have been addressed, bringing to the attention of the Members major achievements and aspects requiring further consideration. The section will also draw lessons from the implementation of the Regional Initiatives in 2013 and illustrate how these inform the new ways of working.
- Section III examines major recent developments and emerging issues and national priorities as reflected in country programming frameworks (CPFs) that have a bearing on FAO's activities in the region.
- Section IV introduces what areas of work FAO will focus on in the region in 2014-2015 with an outlook for the medium-term 2016-2017 and how these are situated within FAO's results framework.

¹ C 2013/7 and C 2013/3

² C 2013/REP paragraph 96

³ CL 148/3 Adjustments to the PWB 2014-15 paragraphs 40-70 and Annex 5 rev. 1 Results Framework

II. Follow-up to the 2012 Regional Conference and achievements

6. The key FAO achievements in the region during 2012-2013 are summarized in Annex 2. These relate to work to address the five regional priorities,⁴ establish country programming frameworks (CPFs) in all countries of the region and deliver the FAO field programme of approximately US\$319 million.

7. The major recommendations of the 31st APRC were implemented⁵ including: formulating a regional rice strategy; conducting coconut-sector development studies and the organization of a high-level consultation; controlling and preventing transboundary animal diseases; and other emerging priorities and needs in the region. These are summarized below.

Regional Rice Initiative in Asia and the Pacific Region

8. In 2013, the Asia and Pacific region started implementing the Regional Rice Initiative (RRI) on rice-based production systems in Asia, together with formulating regional rice strategies in Asia and the Pacific. Phase I of the RRI, which was a pilot project, responded primarily to national needs related to sustainable production intensification of goods and services of rice ecosystems in an integrated and multidisciplinary manner. Based on the lessons learned from Phase I, the three pilot countries involved [Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Philippines] requested further mainstreaming the project into national policies in the 2014-15 biennium. The project has built solid links with the regional rice strategy and has initiated an active process of teamwork and synergies across FAO units. Most work was done in collaboration with international and national institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which expressed commitment to continue the work. In parallel, the regional rice strategy formulation was carried out, and was finalized through involvement of key international partners such as the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and CSO/Farmer Organization representative in close consultation with the member countries and civil society organizations.

Coconut Sector Development in the Region

9. FAO, in collaboration with the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), has conducted various country studies to assess the constraints and emerging needs in the coconut sector in the region. A high-level expert consultation on coconut-sector development in Asia and the Pacific was held in 2013 and formulated a regional strategy to develop the coconut sector in the region based on the field studies and discussions at the high level consultation.

10. Lessons learned and experiences gained from the pilot RRI and coconut-sector development in 2013, in particular the implementation of the Sustainable Agricultural Production Intensification (SPI) under Strategic Objective 2, will be incorporated into the new Regional Initiative for Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific during 2014-2015.

Control and Prevention of Transboundary Animal Diseases in the Region

11. FAO has strengthened country and regional capacities and applied innovative approaches to control and prevent avian influenza and other emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (rEIDs) among animals and humans. During 2012 and 2013, through the FAO Emergency Centre of Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Unit in RAP, significant progress was made in strengthening engagement with ASEAN and SAARC to address HPAI and rEIDs. In addition, a regional coordination mechanism to address rEIDs was endorsed at the ministerial level through a high-level consultation with ASEAN. ECTAD has broadened its mandate from HPAI to other diseases and has adopted a more integrated, multidisciplinary approach to promote the development of regional and national One Health strategies and action plans at regional and country levels with OIE and WHO

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/019/k8736e.pdf>

⁵ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/rap/files/meetings/Report_on_Implementation_of_the_31st_APRC_Recommendations.pdf

to support specific disease controls (e.g for rabies, FMD and H7N9). ECTAD has become a significant platform in supporting prevention and control of existing and emerging high-impact animal and human infectious diseases in the face of rapidly evolving dynamics in the region's livestock sector.

Zero Hunger Challenge

12. The Secretary-General of the United Nations launched the Zero Hunger Challenge at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil in June 2012 with the aim to eradicate hunger. As a follow-up to the global initiative, through the leadership by FAO, ESCAP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific was launched by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of ESCAP's 69th Commission Session on 29 April 2013, with the participation of prime ministers and senior officials of member countries. Subsequently, with an aim to guide member countries to formulate a Zero Hunger Challenge National Action Plan, FAO coordinated a UN joint effort in formulating a Regional Zero Hunger Challenge Guiding Framework. This Guiding Framework was formally launched at the ESCAP Ministerial Session in December 2013, and it led to a commitment by the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste to translate the global commitment into national action. Accordingly, the National Zero Hunger Challenge was launched in Timor-Leste on 9 January 2014 with the support of FAO, and with the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and the Special Representative of UN Secretary-General to Timor-Leste, Dr Noeleen Heyzer.

Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) in all Countries of the Region

13. CPFs have been formulated in all countries of the region, through which the countries in the region have defined their own priorities for FAO's technical assistance and areas for cooperation. An analysis of them indicates that the priorities defined at the country level reflect significant commonality across the region (see Annex 2). Many countries focus their priorities on natural resource conservation and management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk management, promotion of food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation and livelihood development, value chain and agribusiness development (including post-harvest loss reduction and marketing), agricultural research, extension and productivity growth and development of policy and regulatory frameworks. Gender is covered by most of the countries, followed by capacity building as a cross-cutting theme. The analysis and mapping results also show that they correspond quite well with the five regional priorities and FAO's new corporate Strategic Objectives, as shown in the table in Annex 2. These results indicate that CPFs are aligned with FAO's reviewed Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan as well as with regional priorities.

Delivery of FAO's Field Programme in the Region

14. FAO's field programme delivery in Asia and the Pacific has grown very rapidly in the past with the annual delivery tripled in the past decade (see Annex 2). It reached a historic peak in 2010 with a delivery of US\$260 million, which largely reflected delivery from EU-funded food facility projects that supported FAO's interventions after the food-price crisis in 2007-08. After the completion of the EU food facility projects, there has been a natural decline of delivery. The proportion of annual emergency projects delivery, which had been higher than the delivery of long-term projects in the past, was reversed in 2012-13 with over 60 per cent of the delivery coming from long-term projects. The project delivery in 2012-2013 was reasonably high and remained in increasing trend, if compared with the period of time before the food-price crisis. Total field programme delivery in the region in 2013 was approximately US\$160 million, and during the biennium 2012-13 was approximately US\$319 million. A total number of 358 projects were operational at the end of December 2013. Approximately 8 per cent of the total delivery came from TCP projects and 92 per cent of the total delivery came from donor funded projects.

III. Trends and emerging challenges in the region: Regional priorities for the medium term

15. While it recorded higher economic growth rates than any other region in the recent past, Asia and the Pacific region continues to be home to about 62 percent of the world's undernourished population. The region is also facing major challenges such as rapid urbanization; a rapid population increase and changing food consumption patterns; widening income disparities and social inequity; stagnation of expansion of arable lands; increased scarcity of water resources; negative impact of bioenergy development on food security; crude oil and food price volatility; climate change; and the increased incidence of natural disasters. According to the latest revised estimates released by FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the proportion of undernourished people in this region declined from 24.1 percent from 1990-1992 to 13.5 percent from 2011-2013, making it possible to achieve the MDG1 hunger target of 12 percent by 2015 if adequate and concerted actions and efforts are made. However, even if this target is met, problems would still exist among the bottom 12 percent of the total population, who constitute the most disadvantaged people in society. Without eradicating hunger by supporting these most vulnerable people, it will not be possible to achieve sustainable development or an equitable and just society, and world peace, stability and security will be negatively affected. In fact, FAO's first goal has been shifted to eradicating hunger, i.e. achieving "Zero Hunger."

16. The five regional priorities endorsed by the 31st APRC remain relevant to the trends and emerging challenges in the region. The five regional priorities correspond well to the five new FAO corporate Strategic Objectives as outlined below.

Strategic Objective 1: Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

17. The corresponding Regional Priority is strengthening food and nutritional security (priority A). The Guiding Framework for the implementation of the Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific was developed by the United Nations Regional Thematic Working Group on Poverty and Hunger in Asia and the Pacific, which was chaired by FAO and co-chaired by ESCAP and UNDP. It is expected to serve as a tool for the governments to formulate a national action plan and implement the national Zero Hunger Challenge with the support of UN agencies and other stakeholders. At the initial stage, a selected number of pilot countries would be identified to assist in formulating a national action plan and implement the national Zero Hunger Challenge with support from FAO and the UN team. The effort would also include the promotion of underutilized indigenous food resources. While there have been identical improvements in the nutritional status of people in the region, focused efforts to meet the challenge of the high undernourishment rate in South Asia, high child stunting rate in several Asian countries exceeding 40 percent, continuous problems with micronutrient deficiency, and growing number of overweight and obese people, including those in Pacific Island countries, are major issues in the region. Related key future prospects and emerging issues are specified in APRC agenda item no. 8.

Strategic Objective 2: Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner.

18. The corresponding Regional Priorities are fostering agricultural production and rural development (priority B), enhancing equitable productive and sustainable natural resource management and utilization (priority C), and coping with the impact of climate change on agriculture and food and nutritional security (priority E). In Asia and the Pacific, about 80 percent of farmers are smallholder farmers who produce nearly 90 percent of the region's total food production. Thus, the region is very dependent on smallholder farmers' technology and skills. Hence it is crucial to support smallholder farmers by increasing their agricultural productivity and production through promoting pro-poor agricultural policy and governance, strengthening farmer organizations and capacity of women in agriculture, promoting GAP and value chains, linking farmers to markets, strengthening agricultural research and extension and communication linkages, pursuing a "Save and Grow" and sustainable agricultural intensification approach, enhancing the resilience of farmers to climate changes, promoting regional implementation of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System

(GIAHS) and Geographical Indications (GI), etc. On the other hand, sustainable management of natural resources and integrated ecosystem management are indispensable for future sustainable agricultural production and productivity growth and pursuing a Blue and Green Economy, which would be given priority for implementation .

19. *Strategic Objective 3: Reduce rural poverty.* The corresponding Regional Priority is fostering agricultural production and rural development (priority B). While there has been significant progress in poverty reduction in the region, statistics indicate that the majority of the world's poor still live in the Asia and Pacific Region. They are the group of people excluded from the benefits of economic growth and most affected by food price volatilities. They require targeted support through social protection and safety nets such as conditional cash voucher and agricultural insurance schemes. In rural areas, they are either farm labourers or landless or they have plots of land that are so tiny that with traditional agriculture they cannot produce sufficient income to surpass the poverty line. Strategies to address this target group will have to be varied and creative and will have to include various social protection and safety net measures, implementation of the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) at regional and country levels, support for country level implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, and the creation of off-farm and non-farm rural employment and agriculture-related income generating activities through promoting farmer organizations, farmer field schools, skill training and inclusive value chains with special attention to women, whereby the poorest can play a productive role throughout the entire value chain.

Strategic Objective 4: Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels.

20. The corresponding Regional Priority is fostering agricultural production and rural development (priority B). At the global and regional level, many countries face increasing levels of food losses and waste and often fail to recognize the important role of food loss and waste reduction in addressing food security and hunger. Globally, an estimated 1.3 billion tonnes of food (approximately 30 percent of global food production) is lost or wasted every year. Food loss results mainly from poorly functioning food supply chains and systems, while food waste is caused by retailers, the food-service sector and consumers discarding edible food stuff and left-over food. A consolidated effort is, therefore, required to raise awareness on food loss and food waste and their impacts through the implementation of a Save Food Campaign, while building technical capacities and developing an evidence base to support policy and strategy development to manage these issues. On the other hand, promotion of food quality and safety, and the formulation of associated standards and regulatory frameworks to ensure food safety, meet the needs of consumers, and facilitate trade are other important elements to be implemented.

21. There is a need to build capacity among value chain stakeholders – small farmers, traders, processors, packagers and exporters and retailers – to competitively and efficiently supply local, domestic and international markets. Capacity building must address production (including organic production), certification including participatory guarantee schemes, post-harvest handling, food quality and safety issues, contract farming, direct marketing and investment and finance necessary for the improvement of value chains.

Strategic Objective 5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

22. The corresponding Regional Priorities are improving capacity to respond to food and agricultural threats and emergencies (priority D), and coping with the impact of climate change on agriculture and food and nutritional security (priority E). Negative consequences of climate change are seen in the frequent occurrence of natural disasters (e.g. floods and droughts) which have doubled in the region over the past ten years. These disasters have affected food production and price stability. There is a need to facilitate the shift in emphasis from emergency response with short-term relief measures towards broad-based and concerted disaster risk reduction, preparedness and prevention programmes to mitigate the long-term impact of disasters on food security and balanced nutrition.

23. In particular, RAP has been directly supporting the work related to Disaster Risk Reduction /Disaster Risk Management /Climate Change Adaptation (DRR/DRM/CCA) across the region and

enhancing capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction in Agriculture in Cambodia and the Philippines. The work in the Philippines is being integrated into the ongoing emergency response efforts of Typhoon Haiyan. DRR/M support was instrumental in formulation of a national plan of action (PoA) for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in the agriculture sector in countries including Cambodia, the Philippines and the Lao People's Democratic Republic and expansion is planned for other countries.

24. RAP promotes Conservation Agriculture to strengthen production system sustainability and intensification within its Disaster Risk Management framework that links emergency and rehabilitation activities to longer-term development and technical assistance activities, and is currently piloting Conservation Agriculture projects in Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

25. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) programme was initially implemented out of RAP, but over the period has been transferred to provide direct country-based support in countries such as Pakistan and Bangladesh. This has increased knowledge and early warning systems to enable better response planning for food security when emergency events occur. In addition, the Regional Emergency Centre for Transboundary and Animal (ECTAD) platform continues to support early warning systems, disaster risk reduction and emergency response efforts across the region.

IV. Focus areas of work in the Region for 2014-2015 and beyond

26. FAO will use the regional priorities to focus its work in the region to help members achieve the Strategic Objectives⁶ through four regional initiatives and other key areas of work, including for the Southwest Pacific.

Regional Initiatives

27. During the biennium 2014-15, the following four Regional Initiatives (RIs) will be implemented, with a special emphasis as outlined below in the region:

A. Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific (SO1) focused on:

- 1) formulating (or operationalizing) the national food security policy;
- 2) improving capacity for measurement and calculation of undernourishment;
- 3) improving child nutrition and reducing stunting.

B. Regional Rice Initiative Phase II – Implementing Regional Rice Strategy corresponding to country-level follow-up actions (SO 2) focused on:

- 1) improving food and nutrition security through effective provision and utilization of ecosystem services and goods derived from rice-based farming systems and landscapes;
- 2) reducing poverty through the adoption of sustainable rice-based ecosystems through a food chain approach and improved market options;
- 3) realising food-secure, better nourished and prosperous rice farmers and consumers in the Asia-Pacific region who benefit equitably from a vibrant, innovative and transformed rice sector that is more productive, efficient and environmentally sustainable, through the formulation and implementation of rice strategies at country level.

C. Blue growth – Enhancing equitable, productive and sustainable natural resource management and utilization through a blue economy (SO 2) focused on:

- 1) supporting sustainable management of natural resources through improved governance, ecosystem approaches, participatory processes and actions to improve implementation at local levels;
- 2) improving governance and ownership of natural resources by smallholders;

⁶ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/rap/files/meetings/32nd_APRC_Web_Annex_.pdf

- 3) supporting reduction of poverty, improved resource rents, increased food security and improved nutrition of rural, coastal and riparian communities with sustainable intensification of food production;
- 4) supporting management of transboundary issues (e.g. water management, fisheries, forest pests and animal health) and adaptation to climate change.

D. Developing local value chains for food security and nutrition in Pacific Island Countries

(SO4) focused on supporting Pacific institutions and national partners to reduce food import dependence by:

- 1) supporting the development of policy and regulatory frameworks to facilitate agricultural sector links to domestic markets and the tourist sector and, where appropriate, improve smallholder access to niche export markets;
- 2) improving capacity to participate in the development of international standards for food safety, plant health and animal health and facilitating the development of national systems to assure compliance with mandatory standards that are based on international guidelines and recommendations as well as with relevant private and other quality standards as required by the market;
- 3) improving capacity to assemble, integrate, analyse and disseminate information on food, nutrition and natural resources to improve monitoring of food and nutrition security and the impact of agriculture policies and interventions;
- 4) the development of strategies to enable value chain actors to create more sustainable and inclusive value chains.

Priorities beyond the biennium 2014-15

28. As regards the scope of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, a number of key cross-cutting issues were proposed at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil in 2012 to sharpen the formulation of a next set of food security and nutrition-related goals with the following key messages:

- Sustainable development cannot be realized unless hunger and malnutrition are eradicated.
- The Rio vision requires that food and consumption and production systems achieve more with less.
- The transition to a sustainable future requires fundamental changes in the governance of food and agriculture and an equitable distribution of transition costs and benefits.

29. Accordingly, FAO's vision for Rio+20 and beyond is "*end hunger and make the transition to a sustainable agriculture and food system*". It involves following three priority areas which are relevant to this region:

- 1) **Eradicating hunger and improving human nutrition:** with emphasis on fair access to resources; employment and income; targeting smallholder producers and the landless; chronically hungry people with a well-targeted approach and social safety nets.
- 2) **Sustainable food consumption and production systems:** with emphasis on reducing food losses and waste; investing in the whole food chain; promoting sustainable intensification across all food production systems; and promoting climate-smart and energy-smart agriculture.
- 3) **Inclusive and effective governance:** with emphasis on inclusive, nationally owned and flexible governance mechanisms; sound policies and strong institutions; and an equitable distribution of transition costs and benefits.

30. FAO also calls for the following six commitments which will be relevant to this region: a) Accelerate the pace for eradicating hunger and malnutrition, b) Use the Voluntary Guidelines: Right to Adequate Food; and Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, c) Fisheries and Forests, Support the efforts of all stakeholders to integrate food security and environmental objectives, d) Ensure an equitable distribution of costs and benefits from the transition to sustainable consumption and production; and secure people's livelihoods and access to resources, e) Adopt integrated approaches to

managing multiple objectives and linking financing sources, and f) Implement governance reforms – transparency, participation and accountability.

31. In response to the UN Secretary-General's request on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons (HLPE) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda highlights that the post-2015 agenda needs to be driven by the following five big transformative shifts: a) leave no one behind, b) put sustainable development at the core, c) transform economics for jobs and inclusive growth, d) build peace and effective, open, accountable institutions, and e) forge new global partnerships. The report identified 12 Universal Goals. Of those, Goal Five explicitly aims to "ensure food security and good nutrition" with five targets which are well-aligned with the UN Secretary General's **Zero Hunger Challenge**; Goal 9 aims to "manage natural resource assets sustainably" with three targets; and Goal One aims to "end poverty" with four targets (see below), most of which directly associate with FAO's technical competences and mandates, and are relevant to this region:

- 1) **HLPE Post-2015 Universal Goal Five: Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition:** a) end hunger and protect the right of everyone to have access to sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious food; b) reduce stunting, wasting and anaemia for all children under five; c) increase agricultural productivity with a focus on sustainably increasing smallholder yields and access to irrigation; d) adopt sustainable agricultural, ocean and freshwater fishery practices and rebuild designated fish stocks to sustainable levels; and e) reduce post-harvest loss and food waste.
- 2) **HLPE Post-2015 Universal Goal Nine: Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainably:** a) safeguard ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; b) reduce deforestation and increase reforestation; and c) improve soil quality, reduce soil erosion and combat desertification, etc.
- 3) **HLPE Post-2015 Universal Goal One: End Poverty** which partially associates with FAO's priority and is closely linked with FAO's new corporate Strategic Objective 3 (i.e. "Reduce Rural Poverty") with the following targets: a) bring the number of people living on less than US\$1.25 a day to zero; b) increase the share of women and men, communities and businesses with a secure right to land, property and other assets; c) cover people who are poor and vulnerable with social protection systems; and d) build resilience and reduce losses and damage from natural disasters.

V. Guidance sought

32. The Regional Conference plays a critical role in providing guidance to the Secretariat on priorities to be addressed in Asia and the Pacific Region.

33. In order to have the greatest impact on shaping FAO's priorities for the present and future biennia, the Regional Conference is invited to:

- take note of the major actions carried out by FAO to address regional priorities during 2012-2013, including actions undertaken in response to the recommendations of the previous APRC;
- endorse the relevance of existing regional priorities for FAO's work in the Region as outlined in paragraphs 15 to 25;
- endorse the focused areas of work in the Region for 2014-15 and beyond as outlined in section IV (paragraphs 26-31), including support to the four Regional Initiatives (RIs) shown in paragraph 26 as a means to further focus FAO's work for impact at the country level;
- advise on emerging issues for consideration in further programme development.

Annex 1: FAO Results Framework - Main Components of FAO's Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-19 and Medium-term Plan (MTP) 2014-17
(see p. 12 in C2013/3)

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.

The 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 the 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 at local, national and international levels
- 5) Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Additional Objective

Technical quality, knowledge and services

Cross-cutting Themes

Gender
Governance

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
- 7) Advocate and communicate at national, regional and global levels, in areas of FAO's mandate

Functional Objectives

Outreach
Information technology
FAO governance, oversight and direction
Efficient and effective administration

Annex 2: FAO achievements in Asia and the Pacific Region during 2012-13

Achievements in relation to the five regional priorities (See also footnote 5 on page 3)

A. Strengthening food and nutritional security: Region-specific needs addressed by FAO were related to food price increases and volatility. Food prices have declined slightly in recent years. However, they still remain high both in nominal and real terms when compared with prices from ten years ago. Food price volatility was one of the emerging issues affected by many factors such as high crude oil prices, impacts of natural disasters, export restrictions and other policy measures of exporting countries, unreliable market information resulting in speculations and panic buying, etc. Several high-level consultations were held, and member countries in the region are better equipped to deal with such situations in the future. Considerable efforts have been made in advocating and raising awareness about the importance of good nutrition and the crucial role of the food and agriculture sector in reducing malnutrition through high level consultations, meetings and policy dialogues at regional and national levels. Support was provided in mainstreaming nutrition in the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and its Strategic Plan of Action on Nutrition. FAO, through various foras, worked on promoting forest foods and highlighting the significance of underutilized and indigenous foods for reducing poverty, hunger and improving nutrition.

RAP undertook several activities in support of member countries' efforts to cope with and manage high and volatile food prices in 2012-13:

- A High-Level Regional Consultation on Policies to Respond to High Food Prices in Asia and the Pacific Region was convened in Bangkok on 1-2 October 2012 in co-partnership among ADB, FAO, IFAD, and WFP. The High-Level Regional Consultation was attended by over 120 participants from 20 countries, including 10 ministers/vice-ministers of agriculture. At the conclusion of the meeting participants agreed upon a common set of actions at national and regional levels to help member countries respond effectively to high food prices.
- RAP also brings out the monthly Asia-Pacific Food Price and Policy Monitor (APFPPM). The prices of several common items of food consumption in member countries as well as national policies relating to food and agriculture are regularly monitored in this publication. As part of its contribution to the global Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis (FAPDA) project, RAP has been collaborating with the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) on national price and policy information sharing and capacity strengthening on the use of the FAPDA tool for policy analysis. RAP also provided a regional contribution to the 2013 FAPDA report *Food and Agriculture Policy Decisions: Trends, Emerging Issues and Policy Alignments since the 2007/08 Food Security Crisis*.

As a result, member countries in the region are better equipped to deal with such situations in the future.

B. Fostering agricultural production and rural development: Region-specific needs addressed by FAO were related to a critical constraint to improve food security in the region which was affected by stagnation of crop productivity for major cereal crops, especially rice and wheat. Member countries in the region benefited through several major studies and high-level consultations and meetings. Key outcomes of some of these meetings include: the formulation of a regional strategy for development of the coconut sector in Asia and the Pacific; and the launch of the Save Food Asia-Pacific Campaign with the endorsement of a joint communique by 115 participants originating from 22 countries in the region. Specific attention was paid to major crops such as rice through the Regional Rice Initiative together with a rice strategy being adopted in the region. Ensuring productive and decent work for the rural poor is crucial for reducing poverty and empowering the poor to purchase adequate and nutritious food. Efforts have been made to reduce hunger and rural poverty by raising on-farm and non-farm incomes and diversifying livelihoods. Through multidisciplinary efforts FAO, in collaboration with other UN agencies, helped in improving livelihoods and developed an integrated livelihood development and human security strategy framework to assist governments to implement the integrated livelihood programme model in countries.

As part of a regional effort, FAO has joined the Regional Social Protection Floor Initiative and established a close partnership with ILO, which resulted in a joint action plan that addressed key challenges and issues related to decent work, child labour in agriculture and fisheries, rural employment and social protection. The joint action plan also looks at addressing rural employment and decent work concerns in FAO country activities, which identifies the creation of links with ILO field offices and facilitates partnerships and the identification of synergies. Joint projects have been formulated in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Indonesia for addressing decent work for food security and sustainable rural development. In view of the importance of social protection in the region and the need for better establishing the linkages with rural employment and agriculture, ILO and FAO are convening a regional consultation in 2014, which will elaborate a Regional Policy Framework for coordinating social protection, rural employment and agriculture, and outline key recommendations.

C. Enhancing equitable, productive and sustainable natural resource management and

utilization: Region-specific needs addressed by FAO were related to increasing pressure on land and water. By 2050, arable land is expected to expand by some 70 million ha, or only less than 5 percent worldwide. In Asia, there will be very little expansion, and the size of arable land in some Asian countries has already started to decline. Land degradation and soil erosion are rapidly taking place in the region, while arable lands are being converted for other uses. Water scarcity is also one of the biggest challenges to agriculture and food production in the region. Competition for the use of natural resources – especially land and water – between food crops and other uses (especially with bio-energy crops) will further increase, as the production of biofuels is expected to double in the next decade. Several important recommendations were adopted by the member countries in the region through FAO technical expert consultations and from the outcomes of Regional Technical Commissions.

D. Improving capacity to respond to food and agricultural threats and emergencies: The region-specific needs that FAO addressed were related to facilitating the shift in emphasis from emergency response with short-term relief measures towards broad-based and concerted disaster risk reduction and preparedness and prevention programmes to mitigate the long-term impact of disasters on food security in the region. FAO assisted member countries to enhance regional capacity for disaster risk reduction and management, preparedness for natural disasters and effective emergency response. It did this through: strengthening management information systems and communications; conducting strategic planning to implement disaster risk reduction and management in collaboration and partnership with other organizations (e.g. effective interagency coordination to prevent and control transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases); assessing approaches and best practices in crop, aquaculture and fisheries insurance; providing technical and capacity-building support on biosecurity and food control systems in line with international requirements; and improving productivity on small farms and making them resilient to production risks to improve safety nets for small-scale farmers, livestock owners and fisherfolk. FAO is currently supporting around 15-20 projects (both regional as well as in individual countries) in various countries of the Asia-Pacific Region on food safety and standards. These cover aspects of legislation and regulation, policy initiatives, risk based inspection and certification systems, test facilities and methods, strengthening food safety across value chains including horticulture value chains, and street food safety, amongst others. Some important issues that are being supported through projects as well as regional workshops/consultations/training cover the area of food safety policy development, support in establishing coordination mechanisms between Ministries/Departments in countries, safety in the food retail sector, strengthening food standard setting and participation in Codex activities, traceability, food safety emergency response planning, risk analysis, good agricultural practices – certification and accreditation aspects, strengthening inspection and testing, amongst others.

E. Coping with the impact of climate change on agriculture and food and nutritional security:

FAO addressed region-specific needs including climate change and the frequent occurrences of natural disasters with negative consequences (e.g. floods and droughts) in forestry, fisheries and other natural resource sectors. These necessitate actions towards an ecosystems approach and measures for adaptation and mitigation. Member countries were assisted to integrate climate change adaptation and

mitigation into strategies for agriculture and rural development with appropriate practices for coping with the adverse impacts of climate change on the agricultural sector. Some of the main outputs were – Regional Studies on: Bioenergy and Food Security Analytical Framework to assist policy-makers manage the tradeoffs associated with bioenergy development and competition between bioenergy and food security; and sustainable bioenergy in Asia for improving resilience to high food prices and climate change; National Studies on: Policy support to climate change adaptation in the agricultural sectors in Thailand; “Study on climate change impacts on rice yields in Lao PDR” to gather information and knowledge products for policy-makers to better manage climate risks to the rice sector and identify adaptation needs; bioenergy needs assessment study to explore the potential of bioenergy sources, policies, gaps and utilization options by strengthening the technical understanding and inter-relationship between bioenergy and food-security objectives; and community-based study on the sustainability of bamboo waste material from plantations for bioenergy production in Thailand; Regional workshop/forum on: Climate services at the national level for least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific; gender and climate-smart agriculture/food security and climate change/climate smart agriculture in ASEAN.

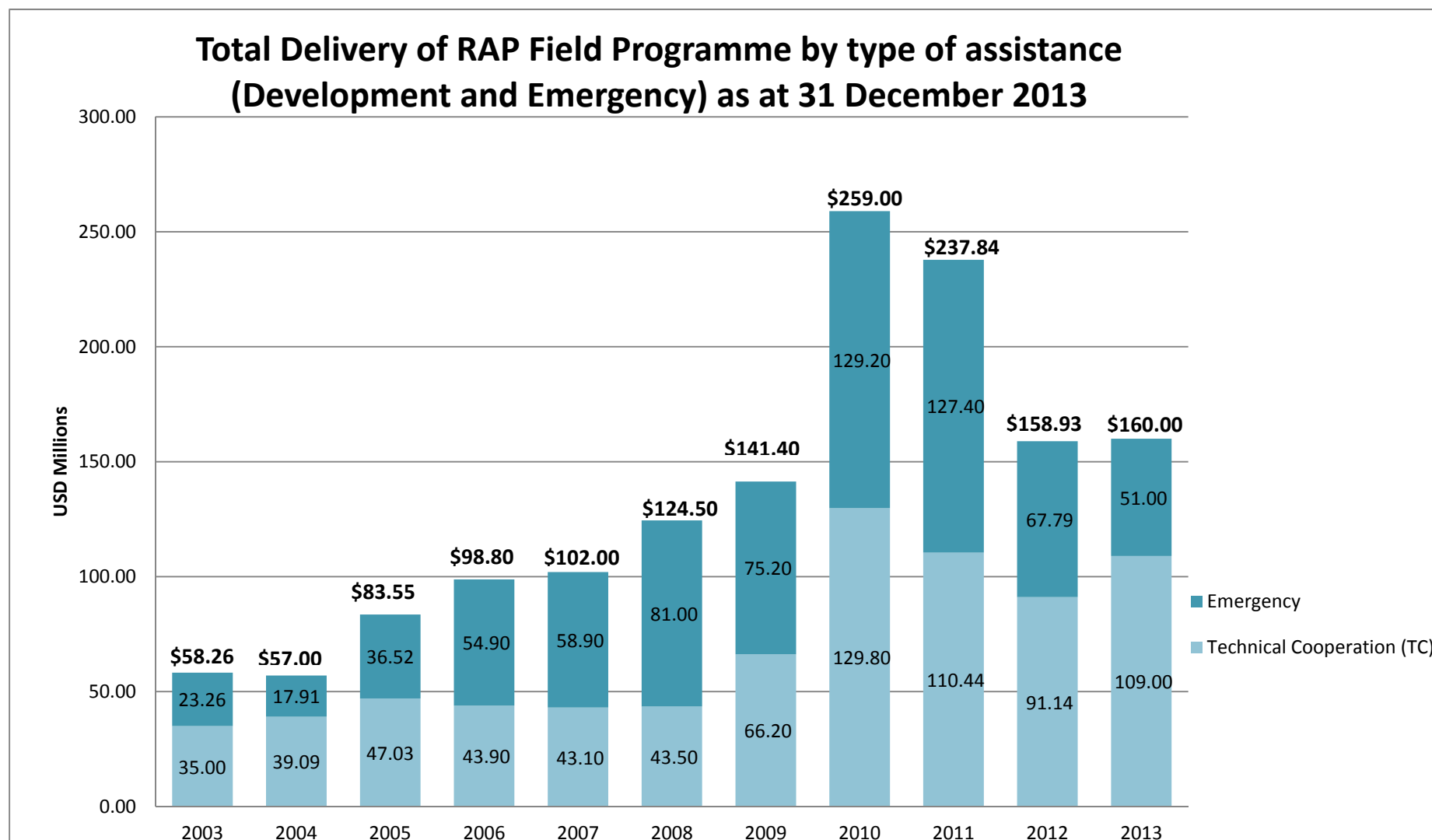
Common CPF Priority Areas by Country and their Linkages with FAO's Global and Regional Priorities

	Priority areas	Countries	Number of countries
1	Natural resource conservation and management (including land, water and forest resources) [SO2] [RP C]	AFG, BGD, BHU, CMB, CPR, DRK, LAO, MON, MYA, NEP, PNG, PHI, SRL, THA, TIL	15
2	Climate change mitigation and adaptation - disaster risk management / emergency preparedness [SO5] [RP D/E]	AFG, BGD, BHU, CMB, CPR, DRK, LAO, MYA, NEP, PAK, PNG, PHI, SAPA, THA, VIE	15
3	Promotion of food & nutrition security [SO1] [RP A]	AFG, BGD, CMB, CPR, DRK, LAO, MDV, MYA, NEP, PAK, PHI, THA, TIL, VIE	14
4	Poverty alleviation, livelihoods promotion, etc. [SO3] [RP A/B]	AFG, BGD, CMB, CPR, DRK, LAO, MDV, MYA, NEP, PAK, PHI, THA, TIL, VIE	14
5	Post-harvest technology / Reduction of food waste / Agribusiness development (including value chains) / Marketing / Food safety / SPS [SO4] [RP B]	BGD, BHU, INS, LAO, MDV, MON, NEP, PNG, SAPA, TIL	10
6	Increasing agricultural productivity (including crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry) / Agricultural research and extension and other support services [SO2] [RP B]	AFG, BGD, CMB, DRK, MDV, MON, MYA, PAK, PHI, VIE	10
7	Policy support / Regulatory framework / Trade / Marketing / Information management systems / statistics, etc. [SO1 / SO4 / SO6 (statistics)]	AFG, BGD, BHU, CMB, IND, INS, NEP, PNG, SAPA, THA	9

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

A	Gender equity	CPFs & NMTPFs of all 21 countries in the region referred to gender equity.	21
B	Capacity-building/development (human resources and institutions) [SO1]	AFG, BGD, BHU, IND, INS, DRK, MYA, PAK, PNG, THA, TIL	10

Delivery of FAO field programme in the Asia and Pacific Region



(Source: FAO FPMIS) Note: Delivery figure for 2013 is a provisional estimate with $\pm 3\%$ variation.

Annex 3: 2014-2015 Budget by Strategic/Functional Objective and Region (in US\$ thousands)

Chapter	Headquarters/ Global		Africa		Asia and Pacific		Europe and Central Asia		Latin America and the Caribbean		Near East		Total		
	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Total
1	42,663	32,059	19,586	33,543	7,054	32,470	5,358	3,350	11,401	45,843	8,555	5,494	94,617	152,759	247,376
2	103,948	86,857	39,139	52,037	18,546	66,080	6,010	8,107	19,929	31,679	11,109	26,399	198,681	271,160	469,841
3	39,730	10,332	7,107	17,317	5,186	11,796	2,926	5,229	5,426	9,415	1,768	362	62,142	54,450	116,592
4	78,849	52,195	15,571	29,524	8,055	21,490	2,174	1,954	5,917	25,490	4,650	193	115,217	130,846	246,063
5	20,330	38,540	6,785	378,015	3,583	240,756	1,309	19,133	3,237	63,001	2,662	55,842	37,905	795,287	833,192
6	52,284	92	631		403		421		591		416		54,746	92	54,838
7 - TCP	24,771		43,698		26,390		11,159		19,767		8,936		134,721		134,721
8	52,734	1,039	725		3,277	20	5,928	385	1,101		947		64,712	1,445	66,157
9	32,265	4	946		387		526		766		610		35,501	4	35,505
10	64,194	5,744	3,357	8,222	3,839	2,419	2,010	1,689	2,467	537	4,346	5,250	80,213	23,861	104,074
11	52,531	4,675	3,795	638	6,212	18	12,528	647	4,793	1,301	1,833		81,691	7,278	88,969
12 - Cont	600		-		-		-		-		-		600		600
13 - CapEx	21,886		-		-		-		-		-		21,886		21,886
14 - Security	23,017	181	-		-		-		-		-		23,017	181	23,198
Total	609,802	231,719	141,341	519,295	82,931	375,049	50,347	40,495	75,394	177,265	45,831	93,539	1,005,648	1,437,363	2,443,012

Explanatory notes: Net Approp = Net appropriation budget distribution as approved by FAO Council in December 2013 (CL 148/3, Annex 3)

Extra-budgetary = Estimated requirements of voluntary contributions as presented to FAO Conference (C 2013/3, Annex III)

