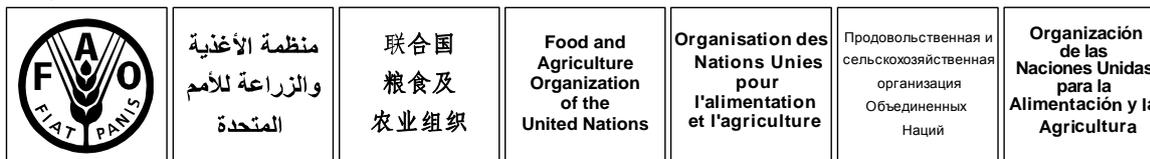


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PRIORITIES FOR FAO ACTIVITIES IN THE AFRICA REGION

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Executive summary

1. FAO through the Regional Office for Africa has been fully engaged in the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget aligned to the agreed areas of priority action defined at the 27th ARC. Through partnerships, and in alliance with national governments, the Regional Office with the support of technical departments has carried out various interventions in support of agricultural development with actions focused on enhancing agriculture production, sustainable natural resource management and increased market access.
2. In 2012-2013, FAO has contributed to adoption of good agricultural practices (30-60% in Southern Africa) and improved food production (e.g. by 73% for rice in West Africa). Capacity building in natural resource management has contributed to improved governance e.g. through adoption of forests community based management practices. In the Great Lakes region, overall market-oriented production has increased, and production marketed on local, national and regional markets has shown an average increase of 32%. Application of food security analysis tools (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification and Cadre

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
a FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.
Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*



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Harmonisé) has proliferated throughout Africa, facilitating evidence based decision making.

3. However, numerous factors such as youth population growth, urbanization, climate change, etc. continue to influence agricultural transformation and natural resource use on the continent. Recurrent and protracted crises still cause vast reduction/erosion of household revenues and assets of the poorest farming households, increasing poverty, food insecurity and vulnerability.
4. The thirty-eighth session of the FAO Conference endorsed the Strategic Framework (2010-19) with five new Strategic Objectives underpinned by a corporate results based management system. The new Strategic objectives operate in synergy with the regional priorities and Country Programming Frameworks in building a corporate approach towards the delivery of results in the region.
5. Building on lessons learnt from implementation of pilot regional initiatives in 2013, three regional initiatives on (i) linking the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) implementation to the Renewed Partnership to end hunger, (ii) improved and sustainable production intensification, and (iii) resilience building in the drylands of Africa are proposed for 2014-15 and beyond. These initiatives incorporate actions from the Strategic Framework, the Regional Priorities and Country Programming Frameworks (CPF) into a coherent framework.

PRIORITIES FOR FAO ACTIVITIES IN THE AFRICA REGION

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 (MTB/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 multi-disciplinary and integrated manner².
2. Priority areas for FAO's work in the Africa Region have been informed by three major strategy streams:
 - (i) 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.
 - (ii) FAO Regional Priorities in the Africa Region as endorsed by the 27th Session of the ARC, which puts into sharp focus the region-specific needs in the context of FAO's Strategic Objectives.
 - (iii) 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 in the Africa region the programmatic Regional Initiative on Rural Poverty reduction in Northern Ghana and the Regional Initiative on Increased resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa as delivery mechanisms to enhance the focus and impact of its work, particularly at country level. Taking account of the pilot experience, additional Regional Initiatives are being put in place to focus delivery of results in 2014-15. These initiatives are intended to address key regional

¹ C 2013/7 and C2013/3

² C2013/REP

and country problems by delivery of relevant products and services at regional and country level, contributing to the achievement of the agreed outputs of the MTP/PWB.

4. FAO's strategic 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 Outputs³. This monitoring and evaluation framework will strengthen FAO's corporate reporting from the 2014-2015 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 shaping of priority areas of FAO's work in the Region.
5. The report is divided into three 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 FAO will focus on in the Region in 2014-15 (with an outlook for the medium-term 2016-17) and how these are situated within FAO's results framework. It closes with a few emerging issues for consideration in the further development of the programme in the Region.

II. Follow-up to the 2012 Regional Conference, Achievements and Lessons learned

6. The 27th Africa Regional Conference (ARC) endorsed four regional priorities for the biennium 2013-14: (i) Increase production and productivity of crops, livestock and fisheries; (ii) Promote Sustainable Use and Management of Natural Resources; (iii) Support to Market Access and Sanitary Measures for better Trade and;(iv) Promote Knowledge Management Information and Advocacy in Africa.
7. The 27th ARC also emphasized region-specific needs related to contribution of policy assistance in improving the capacity of countries, regional economic communities (RECs), and stakeholders to translate policy frameworks into concrete programme implementation. The Conference also made reference to the development of models linking CAADP compacts and investment plan to financing tools. Moreover the Conference highlighted the

³ CL 148/3 p. 10 – 14 Adjustments to the PWB 2014-15 paragraphs 40-70 and Annex 5 Rev. 1 Results Framework

importance of addressing gender inequalities within rural communities with emphasis on capacity development and technical assistance in formulation of gender sensitive strategies and plans.

8. The major achievements⁴ in the region to which FAO has contributed for the period 2012-13 include the following:

Priority 1: Increase production and productivity of crops, livestock and fisheries

9. Sustainable Crop Production Intensification in line with principles of “Save and Grow” has been promoted. Through the APRAO project in West Africa, rice production has improved by up to 73% for rain-fed production, while the Water and Food Security Project for Africa (IESA) in Mali has enabled cultivation of new crop varieties. Under the conservation agriculture (CA) programme in southern Africa, good agricultural practices have been adopted at a rate of 30-60% by target farmers, and up to four-fold increases in crop yields have been realized among practicing small holder farmers. At the policy level, a Sub-Saharan Africa CA strategy has been developed and provided the basis for development of national CA strategies in Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. Development of CAADP National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs) has been supported, and in 32 countries, action plans were developed to mainstream nutrition therein under NEPAD’s leadership.
10. The digital pen technology piloted in Kenya has revolutionized livestock disease surveillance, reducing the disease reporting period from months to seconds. In 14 other countries, capacities of animal health laboratories have been strengthened and proficiency in diagnosis of livestock diseases such as rabies, peste des petits ruminants and foot-and-mouth disease has improved. A pilot initiative to provide weather indexed insurance to small holder farmers was successfully completed in Zimbabwe in partnership with a private insurance firm. Droughts and other disasters have been managed to not turn into large crisis or emergencies particularly in the HoA and Sahel. Many countries have been supported in strengthening their disaster risk management systems, improving and maintaining food security monitoring systems, enhancing capacities to improve the level of preparedness, scaling-up and expanding successful best practices, and on resilience programming based on safety nets and restoring productive sectors.

Priority 2: Promote Sustainable Use and Management of Natural Resources

11. Knowledge of governance practices for sustainable natural resources management has improved over the biennium through capacity development of community leaders and public officials in forestry and land sectors from 19 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In

⁴ Refer to Annex 4 “Results Based Report for Africa (2012-2013)” for detailed report

collaboration with the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC) Secretariat, capacity was developed in 10 member countries of COMIFAC to design and implement national monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems which has contributed to sustainable forest management. Policies and strategies governing the utilization of non-timber forest products and forest investment were developed. With the adoption of the ECOWAS “Convergence Plan for the sustainable management and utilization of forest ecosystems in West Africa”, the development of which FAO supported, ECOWAS is now in a better position to foster collaboration, policy harmonization and coordination for better management of its forest resources.

Priority 3: Support to Market Access and Sanitary Measures for better Trade

12. Commercialization of the agricultural sector and promotion of agribusiness has been facilitated through various initiatives, with emphasis on development of inclusive agribusiness models. FAO support in development of policies and strategies relating to food safety, value chain development, and phyto-sanitary measures for trade has improved the policy landscape in countries. The capacity of African countries in food control systems has been strengthened, and their effective participation in the Codex Alimentarius standard setting process has improved. FAO has also provided advisory services to the African Union in its goal to set by July 2014, the first African Food Safety Authority.
13. The knowledge and skills of small holder farmers in agribusiness management, postharvest handling and value addition has been enhanced; In the Great Lakes region, overall market-oriented production has increased; and production marketed on local, national and regional markets has shown an average increase of 32%. An overall growth of 30% in income at household level for the targeted beneficiaries has been documented through a modern transactions recording system set up for emerging cooperatives which are moving from informal to formal activities, as well as through an in-depth economic analysis to document transactions, income and food security.

Priority 4: Promote Knowledge Management Information and Advocacy in Africa

14. FAO has increasingly facilitated evidence-based decision making for agriculture and food security; the knowledge and skills of policy makers in the adequate utilization of scientific and empirical data in formulation of policies and strategies have been enhanced through various capacity building activities. Agricultural extension personnel were also equipped with, and are applying skills in transfer of scientific knowledge to small holders. The application of the IPC (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification) and *Cadre Harmonisé* tools has proliferated throughout Africa, providing decision makers with a rigorous analysis of food insecurity and identification of objectives for response in both emergency and development contexts.

Lessons learnt from the regional initiatives on rural poverty reduction and increased resilience of livelihoods

15. The FAO regional office implemented two regional initiatives in 2013 in the Africa region, respectively associated with two of the new strategic objectives SO 3 and 5.
16. The Programmatic Regional Initiative on Rural Poverty reduction, piloted in Northern Ghana, followed an integrated approach to address the multiple development challenges facing the rural poor, using the cassava value chain as an entry point for programme implementation. Support was provided to government agencies, producer and community organizations to improve rural livelihoods through (a) strengthened rural organizations and improved social mobilization; (b) improved access to technology, markets, and basic infrastructure and services; (c) skills development and diversification of rural employment opportunities (especially for youth and women) and (d) strengthened social protection mechanisms. At the policy level, the initiative aimed to strengthen the capacities of government agencies to formulate and implement integrated and equitable poverty reduction policies and programmes.
17. The multidisciplinary approach to implementation involving various FAO units and external stakeholders has resulted in increased awareness and dialogue on implementation. Sub-teams created from among the implementing units expedited consensus building. Furthermore, learning events organized with the sub-teams further facilitated knowledge sharing and trouble shooting. On the other hand, involvement of the Government of Ghana right from initiation ensured keen participation in the project. The high level steering committee and technical focal points group (both composed of key stakeholders including ministries, apex organizations, donors and the private sector) formed to provide guidance on project activities have led to improved coordination with other government initiatives. Scaling up of the initiative is planned for the next biennium with potential linkages to the Renewed Partnership on Ending Hunger and the Rural Futures Initiative of the NPCA/African Union. In addition, opportunities to replicate this experience in other countries in the region are being considered.
18. The Regional Initiative on Increased resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa put emphasis on building the capacity of countries to strengthen regulatory frameworks for Disaster Risk Reduction and crisis management for agriculture food and nutrition. Through the initiative, FAO supported the establishment of IGAD's Regional Platform for Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability and the preparation of the related strategic initiative (IDDRSI). FAO also provided technical assistance to IGAD and its seven Member Countries in elaborating their Regional and Country Programming Papers. The knowledge Share Fair recently held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and

coordinated with IGAD and CILLS facilitated multi-stakeholder sharing of resilience best practices on various themes, and resilience partnership strengthening.

19. Several lessons could be drawn from this initiative: (i) the trans-boundary nature of the crises in the Sahel and Horn of Africa necessitate a regional approach in order to address cross-border issues, hence the added value in collaboration with regional entities/RECs; (ii) building on and fostering networks of expertise and experiences of staff at different levels ensured sustainability of interventions; (iii) investment in communication and advocacy helped build partnerships with strategic actors which in turn contributed to global positioning of the organization as a strong actor in resilience building; and (iv) the initiative presented a strong platform for joint resource mobilization with other key players e.g. through the FAO/IGAD resilience partnership programme.
20. FAO is ready to replicate, adapt and/or scale-up programmes/initiatives successfully implemented in some [pilot] countries to others across the region to help consolidate efforts against hunger and poverty.

III. Developments, Trends and Emerging Challenges: Revised priorities for the medium term

21. This section provides an insight into the rationale driving the identification of priority areas of work for the current and next biennium.
22. African agriculture is in the midst of a profound structural transformation, driven by population growth, urbanisation, income growth and inequality in its distribution, new technologies, globalization, and climate change. For this structural transformation to benefit people, and thus reduce poverty and eradicate hunger, Africa needs to ensure that stable economic growth translates into more and better employment opportunities. Accelerating the current pace of job creation and improving the work conditions of its (rural) workforce will be critical. In this respect, the growing number of young people seeking meaningful livelihoods presents a major challenge and potential source of innovation⁵. The entire agri-food system is thus challenged to transform in ways that contribute strongly to broad-based economic growth, poverty reduction, and food security, in an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable way. Tapping into the economic potential of youth represents a tremendous opportunity to help drive rural transformation, and reduce rural poverty among youths and adults alike.
23. Land degradation and desertification continue to pose a threat to the sustainability of the productivity of land-based natural resources. Reduced flows in rivers and lakes in many parts of Africa continue to limit the potential for both tidal and pump irrigation, with sustained

⁵ Refer to ARC/14/2 and ARC/14/INF/8 on youth in Agriculture

threat to crop and livestock production. Attention is being paid to transboundary management of water as witnessed by many protocols concluded between countries in the continent. There is need for further strengthening of these protocols and developing new ones where they do not exist. At the national levels, climate smart agricultural practices, with land and water management at the centre, are increasingly being promoted.

24. FAO's Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) report (2010), and its State of the World Forest report (2011) indicate a reduction in forest loss from about 4 million hectares per year (1990 - 2000) to 3.4 million hectares per year (2000 - 2010). Much of this reduction is attributed to reduced deforestation in Northern Africa, better data from the Sudan and increased reforestation in South Africa. The drivers of deforestation in Africa remain, principally: conversion of forest land to agriculture and settlements; forest fires; illegal cutting; and climate change, limiting forest growth and reforestation in the dry lands of the continent.
25. Over exploitation of the fish stocks due to illegal fishing continues and remains a concern in the region. Post-harvest losses in fisheries and aquaculture have yet to be adequately reduced. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing has been on the increase due to overcapacity in fishing fleets and insufficient surveillance capacities of countries. An additional 35-40 MT of fish is required by 2030 to maintain current per capita consumption of 17 kg. Research, improved data collection, and regular national and regional scientific surveys to ensure more reliable information for the assessment of stocks and for scientific advice remain urgent.
26. Populations around the continent are increasingly exposed to natural hazards (drought, floods, disease epidemics, etc.), man-made crises (socio-economic shocks, conflicts, etc.) and protracted crises (complex, prolonged emergencies that combine two or more aspects of the above-mentioned crises). Simultaneously, these populations are increasingly faced with new challenges related to difficulties in access to markets and food price volatility which have major impacts on the organization and viability of production systems. The recurrence of these shocks has had a profound impact on the poorest farming households especially those relying on rain fed subsistence agriculture; household revenues and assets have been reduced and/or eroded, increasing poverty, food insecurity and vulnerability.

Country priorities: evolution of CPFs

27. As part of the strategic thinking process and the development of the revised FAO Strategic Framework, the process of country programming frameworks (CPF) formulation was launched in 2012. Typically, the process involved various stakeholders including Government institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, other UN agencies and donors. As of end December 2013; 30 countries out of the 47 have their CPFs endorsed, 12 are at an advanced stage/near completion of formulation and 5 are in preliminary form.

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28. CPF priority areas of intervention have been based on national development strategies and are integrated with the work programmes of UN agencies through UNDAFs and aligned with other policy processes and programmes at the national level providing a roadmap for effective action at country level. While the CPFs address the medium-term (4 to 5 years) challenges in these countries, they also reflect the emerging challenges and trends.
 29. Through the CPFs, countries in the region have clearly indicated the most crucial areas of potential FAO assistance in the region through setting clear priorities and areas of cooperation. Most CPF outcomes and outputs address issues related to food and nutrition security, agricultural productivity and sustainable natural resource management, disaster risk management and resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises, as well as governance in the sectors. A mapping exercise conducted demonstrated that CPFs are strongly aligned to the new FAO strategic objectives.
 30. An estimate of resources requirement for the implementation of 30 CPFs indicated a total resources need of about 1.5 billion USD. About 20% of these resources are already available under on-going projects or can be mobilized from FAOs' Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) leaving a considerable balance (80%) to be mobilized through the TCP extra budgetary funds.
 31. The next step in the process is to speed up the formulation process of the remaining CPFs and prepare country work plans for the implementation of the CPF. Efforts are underway to finalize the process in the region by the end of the first quarter of 2014. In view of the challenge ahead for closing the resource gap mentioned above, a strong commitment of governments to go along with FAO's country offices for resource mobilization is more than needed to ensure good implementation of the CPF and achieve the expected results. A sound Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) needs to be designed to achieve adequate, more predictable and sustainable voluntary contributions which will strengthen awareness among partners and member countries on FAO's comparative advantages through effective communication. Country offices will also capitalize on the in-country momentum gained under preparation of the CPFs to enhance contacts with stakeholders and more specifically donors in order to bring them to demonstrate stronger commitment to the sector.

IV. Focus areas of work for 2014-15 and beyond

32. Activities for the 2014-15 biennium will be implemented within the context of the new strategic framework which is in strong alignment with the CPFs (see par. 29), and the regional priorities for the 2014-15 biennium i.e.; i) Increased productivity and effective market access in agri-food systems; ii) Reduction of vulnerability to threats to food security and nutrition and iii) Improved management and governance for sustainable use of natural resources. Delivery on the various priority streams will be organized primarily through time

bound corporate initiatives or through on-going corporate technical activities (see paragraph 3). Three regional initiatives are proposed for the biennium 2014-15 and will be finalized during the preparation of country work plans.

33. The focus areas of work for the biennium 2014-15 build upon regional priorities endorsed in 2012 and relate to the new FAO Strategic Objectives and to the Regional Initiatives as follows:

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

34. Focus on the Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 under the Framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) through a Regional Initiative.

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

35. Focus on Sustainable production intensification and commercialization through integrated management of agricultural landscapes through a Regional Initiative, addressing Regional Priorities 1 and 3 (see paragraphs 42-43).

Strategic Objective 3: Reduce rural poverty

36. Addressed as part of the Regional Initiatives on the renewed partnership to end hunger and on sustainable production intensification, which have built-in components for rural poverty reduction, such as social protection and employment generation for men, women and youth.

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

37. Continued work on support to market access under Regional Priority 1 (see paragraphs 42-43) is expected to make a substantial contribution to Strategic Objective 4.

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

38. Addressed through the Regional Initiative on Building Resilience (See paragraph 44)

The scope of the three envisaged Regional Initiatives is summarized in the following paragraphs.

Regional initiative on the Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 under the Framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme

39. Leaders and decision-makers have historically made pledges at various high-level events to reduce hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Whereas food security has been put on top of the agenda of regional, sub-regional and global institutions, translation of these commitments into policy/programme frameworks and resource allocation has been insufficient. In this light, FAO partnered with AUC/NPCA and the Lula Institute to launch the “Toward African Renaissance: Renewed Partnership for Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 within the CAADP Framework”. This Partnership calls for accelerated action by member states in the fight against hunger through the establishment of ambitious targets within the CAADP framework.

40. The declaration and Roadmap produced at the July 2013 High Level Meeting (HLM) provides the basis for accelerated work in 2014-15. It sets out clear milestones for the implementation of a coherent set of activities to achieve the eradication of hunger in Africa by 2025. Following acknowledgement of the High Level Meeting and endorsement of the Declaration and Road Map by the African Union summit in January 2014, FAO has been working, in partnership with the African Union’s Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) and the Lula Institute, on the translation of the HLM Road Map into action plans for programme implementation in the context of existing national food security frameworks. The Regional Initiative aims to add value to ongoing work at country level by sharpening its focus on food security and nutrition, and by identifying concrete windows of opportunity for promoting an integrated approach to food security and nutrition through for example better coordination, mainstreaming social protection and others.

41. The first group of countries identified for the delivery of the Road Map consists of Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi and Niger with the option to expand the number as implementation progresses. Moreover, it is noted that while the RI will start off in an initial set of four focus countries, CPFs in over 20 countries identify CAADP as a major policy process, and that apart from FAO support to the continental process with AU and Lula Institute, work with various RECs is already ongoing to strengthen CAADP implementation.

Regional Initiative on sustainable production intensification and commercialization through integrated management of agricultural landscapes

42. The proposed initiative aims to build on on-going promotion of best practices of principles of on-farm and off-farm production and post-production processes while addressing the need to create decent rural employment, especially for young people, that result in safe and healthy food, taking into account economic, social and environmental sustainability. These best practices will

provide an ideal opportunity to address the challenges presented by the various factors responsible for poor agricultural productivity, and to tackle the urbanization/ migration challenges through the development of profitable employment for men, women and youths.

43. Selected on-going best practices to support sustainable production and climate change adaptation and mitigation, such as: conservation agriculture; agro-ecology; agro-forestry; integrated land, water, forest and aquaculture management; and integrated crop and livestock management will be considered for accelerated adoption under the initiative. Advocacy, development and implementation of agricultural policy frameworks will be used to secure cross-sectoral coherence and stakeholder commitment. The initiative will also contribute to the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative for Africa and the resolutions of the 9th Ministerial Conference of Ministers responsible for Animal Resources in Africa under NEPAD and AUC as well as the climate proofing of the National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs).

The initiative will also support country efforts to implement the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure and will respond to country requests to consider rice as a major crop by intensifying assistance to this priority area of work in the region.

Regional Initiative on Resilience Building in Drylands of Africa

44. The initiative builds on the on-going Resilience Initiative in the Sahel and Horn of Africa and aims to further strengthen the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises. It is structured around the Strategic Objective 5 with strong linkages to other Strategic Objectives, and has four areas of focus:

- Strengthening institutional capacity for resilience – through policy development such as the Regional Agriculture Investment Plan following the adoption of a regional CAADP Compact and implementation with a focus on, *inter alia*, RECs and other regional bodies; advocacy and knowledge exchange across sub-regions and within countries (e.g. knowledge share-fairs); and development of FAO Multi Year programmes for resilience based on CPFs and aligned to Government and RECs priorities.
- Support early warning and information management systems – supporting farmers, fishers, herders, for vulnerability mapping and analysis through Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) and *Cadre Harmonisé*, joint assessments, transboundary risk assessments, quantitative measurement of resilience, etc.
- Building community level resilience – promotion of flagship programmes encompassing a holistic/integrated approach addressing three pillars, viz., *social* (subsistence farmer associations, farmer field schools, social protection and social inclusion, etc.); *financial* (saving and loan schemes and contingency funds) and *technical* (good agricultural practices, innovative practices such as integrated aquaculture or low input aquaculture in

the dry lands, disaster risk reduction practices, climate change adaptation, natural resources management) aspects

- Responding to emergencies and crises – e.g. supporting the establishment of strategic reserve; food security cluster coordination for emergency response but also for building resilience in the medium to long term., improving preparedness and capacity development.

45. More recently, following endorsement of the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF) by the 27th ARC and its official launch at the 38th Session of the FAO Conference in June 2013, FAO provided support in the establishment of Governance structures namely the Steering Committee (SC), a Fund Assembly (FA), and a Programme Management Unit (PMU), and the preparation of related guidelines and Terms of References. Contributions amounting to USD 40 million have so far been received from Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Cameroon, as well as civil society organizations from the Republic of Congo. About USD 10 to 12 million will be allocated to selected programmes in the Africa region upon decision by the Steering Committee. A call for project ideas was launched in May 2013, under the coordination of the Programme Management Unit (hosted in FAO Regional Office for Africa). Five envisaged country programmes and action plans (Ethiopia, CAR, Malawi, Mali, and Niger) have been prepared, under the leadership of FAO offices, as catalysts to on-going efforts to eradicate hunger, reduce malnutrition and poverty. The Steering Committee of the fund has approved USD 10 million allocation to these programmes, and it is envisaged that an agreement will be signed between FAO and the countries at the upcoming ARC in Tunis before funds are disbursed towards programme implementation. To increase the number of countries receiving support from the Trust Fund, one country concept note (South Sudan) and two regional concepts (Central Africa and West Africa) have been prepared and are under review for further development into full fledged proposals.

Scenarios and Emerging Issues for Consideration in further Programme Development

46. This section highlights some possible scenarios and emerging issues that are likely to have a bearing on the priority setting in the next programming cycle

47. Predictable and stable application of policies is critical for achieving food security and broad-based growth goals in the medium term. However, [recurrence of] climatic and economic shocks often elicit short-term responses to combat resulting food insecurity that may do the opposite of that intended by the medium term policy framework. How can these issues be effectively addressed?

48. The current evolution of the agri-food system in Africa requires multi-stakeholder contributions, beyond line ministries, to address issues affecting performance, productivity and competitiveness. What mechanisms are needed at country level for effective multi-stakeholder participation?

49. Increasingly more countries in sub-Saharan Africa receive fiscal revenues from the natural resource sector. Productive re-investment of these funds e.g. in inclusive agri-food systems is critical for broad-based economic growth. How can FAO assist countries in this regard?

50. Fighting rural poverty in Africa remains a major challenge, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. Even in countries where poverty has been reduced, inequalities remain pervasive between rural and urban areas, between regions, between ethnic groups, and between men and women. Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon that requires an integrated approach to be tackled. How can FAO share a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach?

V. Guidance Sought

51. The Regional Conference plays a critical role in providing guidance to the Secretariat on priorities to be addressed in the Africa Region. For a greater impact of FAO in the region, and appropriate 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 ARC;
- endorse the relevance of existing regional priorities for FAO's work in the Region as outlined in paragraph 32;
- endorse the focus areas of work in the Region for 2014-15 and beyond as outlined in section IV (paragraphs 33-38), including support to the 3 Regional Initiatives (RIs) shown in paragraphs 39-44 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.

VI. Annexes

Annex 1: Components of FAO's Results Framework (see p. 12 in C2013/3)

FAO's vision

A world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contributes 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 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

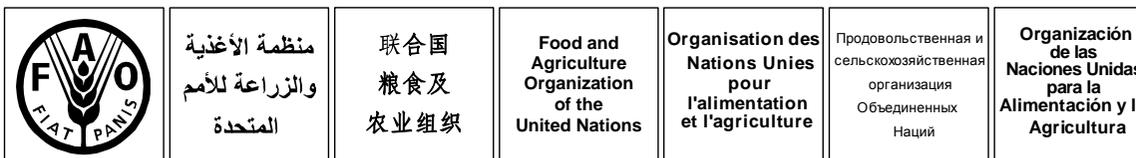
Core Functions

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, analyze, 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 level 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

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Annex 2: PWB 2012-13 net appropriation by SO/FO and Region (CL 148/3)

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)

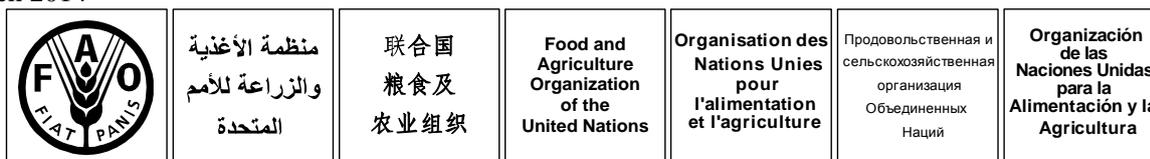
Extra-budgetary = Estimated requirements of voluntary contributors as presented to FAO Conference (C 2013/3, Annex III)

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Annex 3: Summary of FAO Regional Priority Framework

PRIORITY 1	Increase production and productivity of crops, livestock and fisheries
Outcome 1	Crops, livestock and fisheries production increased
Output 1.1	Improved strategies and policies in the crops, livestock, fisheries sectors
Output 1.2	Enhanced capacities of regional organizations, member countries, institutions, communities and households, to implement programmes in the crops, livestock, fisheries sectors
Output 1.3	Governance mechanisms and partnerships in the crops, livestock and fisheries sectors are strengthened
Output 1.4	Increased resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises
PRIORITY 2	Promote Sustainable Use and Management of Natural Resources
Outcome 2	Enhanced natural resource management practices
Output 2.1	Improved strategies, policies and legislation in natural resource management (NRM)
Output 2.2	Enhanced capacities of regional organizations, member countries, institutions, communities and households, to implement programmes and adopt NRM best practices
Output 2.3	Governance mechanisms and partnerships for sustainable natural resources management are strengthened
PRIORITY 3	Support to Market Access and Sanitary Measures for better Trade
Outcome 3	Improved market access and trade in agricultural commodities
Output 3.1	Improved policies and strategies for agricultural trade, sanitary measures, market access and agribusiness development
Output 3.2	Enhanced capacity of regional organizations, member countries, institutions, communities and households, to implement market access and agribusiness development programmes
Output 3.3	Governance mechanisms and partnerships are strengthened through advocacy and facilitation of multi-stakeholder platforms and dialogue
PRIORITY 4	Promote Knowledge Management Information and Advocacy in Africa
Outcome 4	Improved Information and Knowledge Management
Output 4.1	Knowledge and information are promoted and disseminated in order to allow stakeholders to make evidence-based decisions in the crops, fisheries and livestock sectors
Output 4.2	Knowledge and information are promoted and disseminated in order to allow stakeholders to make evidence-based decisions in the NRM sector
Output 4.3	Knowledge and information are promoted and disseminated in order to allow stakeholders to make evidence-based decisions for improved market access and trade in agricultural commodities
Output 4.4	Early warning and information systems are promoted to allow Member states, households and civil society to be prepared and better react to threat and crisis

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Annex 4: Results Based Report for Africa (2012-2013) – Web annex