

REPORT

Ulaanbaatar
Mongolia
10-14 March
2014

Thirty-second FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific





FAO Member Nations in the Asia Region

Afghanistan	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Pakistan
Bangladesh	Japan	Philippines
Bhutan	Kazakhstan	Russian Federation
Brunei-Darussalam	Republic of Korea	Singapore
Cambodia	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Sri Lanka
China	Malaysia	Thailand
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Maldives	Timor-Leste
India	Mongolia	Uzbekistan
Indonesia	Myanmar	Viet Nam
	Nepal	

FAO Member Nations in the Southwest Pacific Region

Australia	Nauru	Tuvalu
Cook Islands	New Zealand	United States of America
Fiji	Niue	Vanuatu
France	Palau	
Kiribati	Papua New Guinea	
Marshall Islands	Samoa	
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Solomon Island	
	Tonga	

Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Asia and the Pacific

First	- Bangalore, India, 27 July – 5 August 1953
Second	- Kandy, Ceylon, 20-25 June 1955
Third	- Bandung, Indonesia, 8-18 October 1956
Fourth	- Tokyo, Japan, 6-16 October 1958
Fifth	- Saigon, Republic of Viet Nam, 21-30 November 1960
Sixth	- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 15-29 September 1962
Seventh	- Manila, Philippines, 7-21 November 1964
Eighth	- Seoul, Republic of Korea, 15-24 September 1966
Ninth	- Bangkok, Thailand, 4-15 November 1968
Tenth	- Canberra, Australia, 27 August – 8 September 1970
Eleventh	- New Delhi, India, 17-27 October 1972
Twelfth	- Tokyo, Japan, 17-27 September 1974
Thirteenth	- Manila, Philippines, 5-13 August 1976
Fourteenth	- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 July – 3 August 1978
Fifteenth	- New Delhi, India, 5-13 March 1980
Sixteenth	- Jakarta, Indonesia, 1-11 June 1982
Seventeenth	- Islamabad, Pakistan, 24 April – 3 May 1984
Eighteenth	- Rome, Italy, 8-17 July 1986
Nineteenth	- Bangkok, Thailand, 11-15 July 1988
Twentieth	- Beijing, China, 23-27 April 1990
Twenty-first	- New Delhi, India, 10-14 February 1992
Twenty-second	- Manila, Philippines, 3-7 October 1994
Twenty-third	- Apia, Western Samoa, 14-18 May 1996
Twenty-fourth	- Yangon, Myanmar, 20-24 April 1998
Twenty-fifth	- Yokohama, Japan, 28 August-1 September 2000
Twenty-sixth	- Kathmandu, Nepal, 13-15 May 2002
Twenty-seventh	- Beijing, China, 17-21 May 2004
Twenty-eighth	- Jakarta, Indonesia, 15-19 May 2006
Twenty-ninth	- Bangkok, Thailand, 26-31 March 2009
Thirtieth	- Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, 27 September-1 October 2010



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Thirty-first
Thirty-second

- Hanoi, Viet Nam, 12-16 March 2012
- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 10-14 March 2014

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

The Thirty-second FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific:

Programme and Budget Matters

Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region

- 24 a) appreciated the major actions carried out by FAO in a timely and quality manner to address the regional priorities during the 2012-13 biennium, including actions taken in response to the recommendations of the thirty-first Regional Conference;
- 24 c) supported the existing regional priorities for FAO's work in the region, which remain relevant, noting that the regional priorities were closely aligned with FAO's new Strategic Objectives, and highlighted the important role of FAO in providing statistics and information for policy formulation, support the work of standard setting bodies, and capacity development;
- 24 d) supported the four Regional Initiatives: i) Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific; ii) Regional Rice Initiative Phase II; iii) Blue Growth; and iv) developing local value chains for food security and nutrition in the Pacific island countries, as a means to further focus FAO's work for country-level impact and for resource mobilization within the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-2015 and Medium-Term Plan 2014-2017;
- 24 e) emphasized the need for a much stronger focus on outcomes and continuity in the strategic direction and leadership of the Organization;
- 24 f) underlined the need for a clear line of sight between the corporate Strategic Objectives and FAO's activities in the region, including those under the CPFs, in order to realize the full impact of the reviewed Strategic Framework and the achievement of indicators and targets in the Medium Term Plan 2014-17;
- 24 g) requested FAO to promote regional implementation of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System, and to address climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- 24 h) emphasized the need to mobilize resources in the region, including at country level to correspond to CPF implementation, facilitate South-South Cooperation and work in partnership with regional institutions.

Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network

- 26 b) endorsed the measures pursued to reinforce capabilities within the Regional Office and the Decentralized Offices Network;
- 26 f) encouraged the use of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in support of the CPFs and in particular for technical areas where FAO has comparative advantage;
- 26 j) urged the strengthening of FAO Representations to improve the effectiveness of FAO's operations and enhance coordination and leadership.



Prioritization of Country and Regional Needs

- 30 emphasized the importance of capacity building through education and training, technology transfer, sound agricultural policies and strategies, infrastructure development and increased investment in the agriculture and fisheries sectors as key needs;
- 32 supported the efforts made by the Regional Office to enable FAO to deliver in a more effective, efficient and sustainable manner, with greater sense of empowerment and ownership of member countries, appreciated steps taken to decentralize roles, responsibilities, authorities and resources and urged FAO to continue such decentralization measures;
- 34 highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration with partner organizations at global, regional and national levels, including with research institutions, multilateral development institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, and other international and regional development and knowledge organizations; the value of regional sharing of knowledge, experience and expertise, including through South-South cooperation was particularly highlighted;
- 35 took note of the statement of the Chairperson of the Southwest Pacific Ministers of Agriculture Forum in seeking additional representation for the Southwest Pacific Region on the FAO Council.

Other Matters***Date and Place of the Thirty-third FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific***

- 38 proposed to hold its next session in Malaysia in 2016.

Any Other Matters

- 43 reinforced high-level commitment to the outcomes of the Regional Conference through the ‘Ulaanbaatar Communiqué’.

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE

The Thirty-second FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific:

State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region, including Future Prospects and Emerging Issues

- 14 a) noted that even if the Millennium Development Goal target is reached by 2015 in Asia and the Pacific, more than half a billion people in the region would still be undernourished;
- 14 b) highlighted the special challenges of Pacific island countries in ensuring food security and nutrition, in light of the unique socio-cultural and biophysical characteristics of the sub-region;
- 14 c) emphasized the critical emerging impacts of climate change on agriculture and urged FAO to provide increased support for climate change adaptation and mitigation activities including Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), in order to create more resilient agricultural and fisheries sectors;
- 14 f) requested FAO support in addressing the key challenges of increasing agricultural productivity, managing natural resources and improving the livelihoods of smallholder farm families, including: analytical and policy work; sound data collection; opportunities for women and youth; sustainable aquaculture; nutrition and food safety; and promotion of under-utilized indigenous food resources.

Realizing Economic Opportunities in Agriculture to Promote Greater Food Security in Pacific Island Countries

- 18 c) requested FAO support for data collection and analysis, conducting food value chain analyses and applying best practices to increase the competitiveness of the local agriculture sector.

Meeting Farmers' Aspirations in the Context of Green Development

- 20 e) acknowledged the need to broaden discussions on the future of agriculture and meeting farmers' aspirations beyond agriculture and natural resources sectors, to include inter alia issues related to urbanization, rural infrastructure, traditional and indigenous knowledge and culture, education and support services and youth development;
- 20 f), h) urged FAO and member countries to facilitate policy dialogue and the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences related to the evolution of agriculture and farming.



Restoration of Grasslands and Forests for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, and the Promotion of Ecosystem Services

- 22 b) stressed the importance of identifying and addressing the underlying causes of grassland and forest degradation and loss, and urged FAO support for related analysis and the formulation of action plans for addressing such factors;
- 22 c) highlighted the many environmental, social and economic benefits that can accrue from effective forest and grassland restoration, while stressing the need for safeguards to ensure that restoration activities protect and enhance biodiversity and respect the rights and interests of local people, especially indigenous people and traditional forest and grassland dwellers;
- 22 g) requested FAO support in the following areas related to forest and grassland restoration: advocacy and awareness-raising; capacity building and policy formulation; innovative financing; livelihood development; information exchange; and mechanisms for multi-sectoral approaches.

Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region

- 24 c) highlighted the important role of FAO in providing statistics and information for policy formulation, support the work of standard setting bodies, and capacity development;
- 24 e) emphasized the need for a much stronger focus on outcomes and continuity in the strategic direction and leadership of the Organization.

I. Introductory Items

Organization of the Conference

1. The thirty-second FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 10 to 14 March 2014. The Conference was organized in two parts: a Senior Officers Meeting from 10 to 12 March and a Ministerial-level Meeting from 13 to 14 March.
2. Representatives from 41 member countries participated in the Regional Conference. Observers include 1 Associate Member, 1 non-member Nation, 10 international non-governmental organizations and 11 intergovernmental organizations were in attendance. Representatives of 4 other United Nations organizations also participated.

Senior Officers Meeting and Inaugural Ceremonies

3. Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative of FAO, and His Excellency, Khaltmaa Battulga, Minister for Industry and Agriculture, Government of Mongolia, presented opening addresses. Mr Konuma appreciated the Government of Mongolia's excellent support in hosting the meeting. He outlined key challenges facing the region in efforts to reduce poverty and food insecurity and updated delegates on developments in FAO and the organization of the Regional Conference. His Excellency, Khaltmaa Battulga, welcomed delegates and participants to Ulaanbaatar and formally opened the Senior Officers Meeting. His Excellency highlighted the importance of cooperation and partnership to enhance food security throughout the region and suggested the Regional Conference issue a Ministerial Declaration to underscore commitment and collaboration.
4. The Inaugural Ceremony of the Ministerial Meeting was held on 13 March. His Excellency Norov Altankhuyag, Prime Minister of Mongolia, delivered the inaugural address. His Excellency highlighted the importance of livestock husbandry based on traditional nomadic culture, while also noting the potential for Mongolia to become a significant producer and exporter of high-value organic agricultural products. His Excellency noted the challenges to achieving food and nutrition security, including climate change, soil erosion, desertification, plant and animal diseases and frequent natural disasters, and urged collaborative and concerted action to overcome these challenges.

Election of Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur

5. Delegates elected Mr Lkhasuren Choi-ish, Director-General of the Strategic Policy and Planning Department, Ministry of Industry and Agriculture, Government of Mongolia, as Chairperson of the Senior Officers Meeting.
6. His Excellency, Khaltmaa Battulga, Minister for Industry and Agriculture, Government of Mongolia, was elected Chairperson of the Ministerial Meeting. Delegates also elected all of the other Ministers present as Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference, and Fiji to serve as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

7. The Regional Conference adopted the agenda which is given in [Appendix A](#). Documents submitted to the Conference are listed in [Appendix B](#).

Statement by the Director-General

8. Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, delivered his statement to the Regional Conference, outlining the progress that had been made in reducing hunger in the region, while stressing the need for further efforts. He highlighted the Zero Hunger Challenge launched by the UN Secretary-General and the importance of not only reducing undernourishment, but completely eradicating it, along with other forms of malnutrition. The Director-General outlined the transformational change that FAO had undergone over the past two years, including revisiting FAO's strategic framework, enhancing partnership, and strengthening of the regional and sub-regional offices, to better respond to the challenges faced by member countries.

Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

9. H.E. Ambassador Wilfred J. Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, addressed the Conference, emphasizing the new roles of the Regional Conferences as Governing Bodies reporting to the FAO Council and Conference, and other reform measures, including the ongoing Independent Review of Governance Reform.

Statement by the Chairperson of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

10. H.E. Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu, Chairperson of the thirty-first session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, reminded the Conference of the recommendations of the previous session, and briefed delegates on subsequent activities to bring these recommendations to the attention of the FAO Conference and Council.

Statement by the Chairperson of the CFS on the Outcomes of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security and Update of the CFS Reform

11. H.E. Ambassador Gerda Verburg, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), reported on the progress made by the reformed CFS over the past two years and the relevance of this to the work of the FAO Regional Conference.

Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation

12. A statement summarizing the conclusions and views of the civil society consultation was provided to the Regional Conference, emphasizing the need to respect the rights and interests of small farmers, landless, rural women, fishers, agricultural workers, forest-dwellers, pastoralists and herders, indigenous peoples, urban poor, consumers and youth in all aspects of agricultural development.

II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues

A. State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region, including Future Prospects and Emerging Issues

13. The Regional Conference reviewed the state of food and agriculture in the region and considered future prospects and emerging issues.¹

14. The Regional Conference:

- a) appreciated the progress made in the region in reducing hunger, but noted that even if the Millennium Development Goal target is reached by 2015, more than half a billion people in the region would still be undernourished;
- b) highlighted the special challenges of Pacific island countries in ensuring food security and nutrition, in light of the unique socio-cultural and biophysical characteristics of the sub-region;
- c) emphasized the critical emerging impacts of climate change on agriculture and urged FAO to provide increased support for climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, including Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), in order to create more resilient agricultural and fisheries sectors;
- d) encouraged member countries to take full advantage of the International Year of Family Farming to increase awareness and understanding of the contributions of family and smallholder farmers and the challenges they face;
- e) acknowledged the good work done in formulating the Regional Rice Strategy through multi-stakeholder consultation, which had been endorsed with minor adjustments; and

¹ APRC/14/2

- f) requested FAO support in addressing the key challenges of increasing agricultural productivity, managing natural resources and improving the livelihoods of smallholder farm families, by assisting member countries to:
- i. continue analytical and policy work to improve food and nutrition security (addressing both under-nutrition as well as obesity and overweight), and build greater awareness of key issues through campaigns such as the Zero Hunger Challenge;
 - ii. improve the opportunities and resources available to women and youth so that they can maximize their contributions to creating a dynamic agricultural sector;
 - iii. conduct technical analyses and develop new policy frameworks so that local agricultural sectors in the Pacific island countries are able to take greater advantage of domestic market opportunities and higher value export niche markets as a way to raise farm incomes and overcome specific geographical and physical constraints;
 - iv. undertake sound data collection, including of gender-disaggregated data, and technical and socio-economic analysis;
 - v. develop sustainable production practices to increase the contribution of aquaculture to food and nutrition security;
 - vi. foster linkages between social protection programs and the agricultural sector in order to make farmers more productive and resilient;
 - vii. strengthen nutrition and food safety programmes, including efforts to harmonize and improve food standards, and help support institutions that lead to improved management of food safety risks; and
 - viii. promote under-utilized indigenous food resources and their value chain development.

B. Update on the Committee on World Food Security

15. The Regional Conference reviewed recent developments and deliberations of the CFS and considered appropriate follow-up actions in Asia and the Pacific.²

16. The Regional Conference:

- a. welcomed the endorsement by CFS of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security and the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition; and
- b. encouraged member countries to engage actively in ongoing CFS multi-stakeholder consultative processes to develop Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments and an Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises, and called for the timely conclusion of the consultations that would allow them to be endorsed at the 41st Session of CFS in October 2014.

² APRC/14/3



C. Realizing Economic Opportunities in Agriculture to Promote Greater Food Security in Pacific Island Countries

17. The Regional Conference considered factors affecting the competitiveness of Pacific island countries' agricultural products, and the lessons which could inform policymakers on steps required to realize domestic and export market opportunities and address the related issues of diet and nutrition.³

18. The Regional Conference:

- a. recognized the importance to Pacific island countries of identifying and realizing real growth market potential in domestic markets, including tourism markets; and developing the production, processing and marketing skills required to meet the requisite standards of safety and quality;
- b. encouraged countries to adopt a comprehensive, whole-of-government approach (with agriculture and health in the lead) to address the strategic policy challenges inherent in improving food and nutrition security and combating non-communicable diseases in the Pacific island countries, and urged FAO to strengthen partnerships with WHO and regional institutions to address these challenges;
- c. requested FAO to support member countries in:
 - i. developing multi-sector stakeholder mechanisms to enhance collaboration among the public, private and social sectors (especially farmers' organizations) to build inclusive and efficient food value chains serving domestic and export markets in the Pacific;
 - ii. strengthening systems for gathering and analyzing data and improving the capacity of public sector institutions to formulate and implement targeted and cost-effective policies;
 - iii. conducting food value chain analyses and preparing policy impact case studies to identify agricultural growth opportunities; and
 - iv. applying best practices to increase the competitiveness of the local agriculture sector and strengthening government capacity to participate in international standards setting organizations such as the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission.

D. Meeting Farmers' Aspirations in the Context of Green Development

19. The Regional Conference considered ongoing transitions in the agriculture sector and the challenges and opportunities such transitions pose in meeting farmers' aspirations.⁴

20. The Regional Conference:

- a. noted the need for greater clarity in defining 'green development', 'green economy', 'green growth' and related terms to facilitate more informed debate;
- b. recognized that a green growth agenda provides opportunities for supporting the aspirations of farmers in adopting sustainable agricultural practices;
- c. acknowledged that a transition to sustainable production intensification in agriculture should focus on supporting the prosperity of farming and rural communities, while addressing key sustainability issues related to management of land and water resources;
- d. highlighted the importance of expanding income opportunities in rural areas, including non-farm income, agri-tourism, agro industries and targeted payments for specific ecosystem services to support farmer aspirations;

³ APRC/14/4

⁴ APRC/14/5

- e. acknowledged the need to broaden discussions on the future of agriculture and meeting farmers' aspirations beyond agriculture and natural resources sectors, to include *inter alia* issues related to urbanization, rural infrastructure, traditional and indigenous knowledge and culture, education and support services and youth development;
- f. encouraged member countries to facilitate multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder public policy dialogues, including CSOs, that address key questions of rural poverty reduction and the long-term future and evolution of agriculture and farming, especially with respect to small and family farmers;
- g. urged FAO and member countries to use the International Year of Family Farming as an opportunity to facilitate such policy dialogue, including through the creation of long-term, national-level, follow-up mechanisms such as national IYFF Committees; and
- h. requested FAO to provide assistance to member countries in increasing understanding of green development, formulating road maps for agricultural transition, and facilitating the exchange of related information, knowledge and experiences.

E. Restoration of Grasslands and Forests for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, and the Promotion of Ecosystem Services

21. The Regional Conference considered opportunities and constraints related to restoration of grasslands and forests in the region, particularly in relation to climate change.⁵
22. The Regional Conference:
 - a. noted that degradation of grasslands and forests can have severe negative local impacts and far-reaching consequences, including soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions, desertification, dust storms, diminished livelihood opportunities, and reduced yields of products and services;
 - b. stressed the importance of identifying and addressing the underlying causes of grassland and forest degradation and loss, and urged FAO support for related analysis and the formulation of action plans for addressing such factors;
 - c. highlighted the many environmental, social and economic benefits that can accrue from effective forest and grassland restoration, while stressing the need for safeguards to ensure that restoration activities protect and enhance biodiversity and respect the rights and interests of local people, especially indigenous people and traditional forest and grassland dwellers;
 - d. appreciated the renewed importance being placed on restoration of grasslands and forests and urged collective action by member countries, FAO and other development partners to accelerate the pace of restoration in the region;
 - e. encouraged FAO's continued involvement in the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, initiatives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), including the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD), and other programmes supporting forest and grassland restoration;
 - f. supported FAO's plans to establish a Forest Landscape Restoration Mechanism to facilitate and support national restoration activities; and
 - g. requested FAO to support member countries in:

⁵ APRC/14/6 Rev.1



- i. advocacy, awareness raising and engagement of key decision-makers in support of forest and grassland restoration;
- ii. building technical capacities and formulating policies and measures to create an enabling environment for effective forest and grassland restoration, including strengthening tenure rights;
- iii. exploring opportunities for innovative financing of restoration activities, including through payments for ecosystem services and other efforts to link investors to local communities implementing restoration activities;
- iv. enhancing livelihood opportunities for forest and grassland communities, including linking communities to markets for products and services from forests and grasslands, to strengthen resilience;
- v. establishing effective mechanisms for working across sectors at landscape levels to implement programmes for forest and grassland restoration; and
- vi. facilitating the exchange of information and lessons learned on successful restoration efforts, and supporting pilot initiatives to introduce promising new techniques and approaches.

III. Programme and Budget Matters

A. Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region

23. The Regional Conference considered the report on priorities for FAO activities in the Asia and the Pacific, covering achievements in 2012-13 and proposals for 2014-15 and beyond.⁶
24. The Regional Conference:
 - a. appreciated the major actions carried out by FAO in a timely and quality manner to address the regional priorities during the 2012-13 biennium, including actions taken in response to the recommendations of the thirty-first Regional Conference relating to the formulation of a regional rice strategy, coconut sector development, control and prevention of transboundary animal diseases, save food campaign, promotion of underutilized and indigenous food resources, and formulation of a Regional Zero Hunger Challenge guiding framework, which will continue in the 2014-15 biennium;
 - b. took note of the lessons learned from this experience, particularly the piloting of the Regional Rice Initiative in 2013, and the gradual shift of extra-budgetary support from emergency activities to long-term development and resilience;
 - c. supported the existing regional priorities for FAO's work in the region, which remain relevant, noting that the regional priorities were closely aligned with FAO's new Strategic Objectives, and highlighted the important role of FAO in providing statistics and information for policy formulation, support the work of standard setting bodies, and capacity development;
 - d. supported the four Regional Initiatives: i) Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific; ii) Regional Rice Initiative Phase II; iii) Blue Growth; and iv) developing local value chains for food security and nutrition in the Pacific island countries, as a means to further focus FAO's work for country-level impact and for resource mobilization within the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-2015 and Medium-Term Plan 2014-2017;
 - e. emphasized the need for a much stronger focus on outcomes and continuity in the strategic direction and leadership of the Organization;

⁶ APRC/14/7, APRC/14/INF/5 and APRC/14/INF/8

- f. underlined the need for a clear line of sight between the corporate Strategic Objectives and FAO's activities in the region, including those under the CPFs, in order to realize the full impact of the reviewed Strategic Framework and the achievement of indicators and targets in the Medium Term Plan 2014-17;
- g. requested FAO to promote regional implementation of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System, and to address climate change adaptation and mitigation; and
- h. emphasized the need to mobilize resources in the region, including at country level to correspond to CPF implementation, facilitate South-South Cooperation and work in partnership with regional institutions.

B. Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network

25. The Regional Conference considered the document on Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network in the Asia and the Pacific, reporting on actions taken in 2012-13 and those planned for 2014-15.⁷
26. The Regional Conference:
 - a. highlighted the progress made in strengthening Decentralized Offices in the region, and the support received from members in the development and successful implementation of decentralization, in response to the thirty-first Regional Conference;
 - b. endorsed the measures pursued to reinforce capabilities within the Regional Office and the Decentralized Offices Network;
 - c. supported actions taken to strengthen the capacity of Country Offices, including posting of international officers in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, and Papua New Guinea;
 - d. welcomed progress made in integrating emergency and development activities, appointing a Deputy FAO Representative in Bangladesh, and on-going actions to post Assistant FAORs in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu;
 - e. welcomed the completion of Country Programming Frameworks (CPF) in 28 countries, aligned to the reviewed Strategic Framework, and recommended the completion of CPFs in the remaining 6 countries;
 - f. encouraged the use of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in support of the CPFs and in particular for technical areas where FAO has comparative advantage;
 - g. recognized the importance and renewed commitment to the establishment of the Partnership and Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) programmes as a means for facilitating bilateral collaboration between FAO and member countries, considering the increased number of Middle Income Countries and emerging economies in the region;
 - h. noted the substantive potential to enhance cooperation within, and with other regions through South-South cooperation, employing local expertise whenever possible and taking advantage of the capacity that exists within the region in the field of agriculture and food security, and in particular through establishment of a network of regional agricultural research and extension institutions;
 - i. appreciated the progress made by the Sub-regional Office for the Pacific, taking into full consideration the specific characteristics and requirements of the sub-region; and

⁷ APRC/14/8



- j. urged the strengthening of FAO Representations to improve the effectiveness of FAO's operations and enhance coordination and leadership.

C. Prioritization of Country and Regional Needs

27. The Ministerial-level session of the Regional Conference, convened 13 to 14 March, involved the full delegations of all participating countries and organizations, including 12 Ministers and 9 Vice-Ministers. Ministers and other high-level delegates highlighted the many challenges countries faced in achieving food and nutrition security for all people of the region and underscored the recommendations of the Senior Officers Meeting as elaborated in the respective sections of this report.
28. The Ministers and delegates particularly highlighted the challenges related to the adverse effects of climate change and the frequent devastating natural disasters occurring in the region as a result of extreme weather events. The Regional Conference appreciated FAO's timely emergency response and support for recovery from the recent spate of natural disasters in the region, and requested continued FAO support in meeting these challenges.
29. The Ministers and delegates stressed the need to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity, and to facilitate transparent, open and efficient trade of food to accelerate progress towards food security in the region. The importance of developing effective food value chains and enhancing food safety and quality were highlighted.
30. The Ministers and delegates emphasized the importance of capacity building through education and training, technology transfer, sound agricultural policies and strategies, infrastructure development and increased investment in the agriculture and fisheries sectors as key needs.
31. The Ministers and delegates appreciated the clarity and relevance of FAO's new Strategic Objectives and supported the priorities for the Organization's work in the region, including the four Regional Initiatives: i) Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific; ii) Regional Rice Initiative Phase II; iii) Blue Growth; and iv) developing local value chains for food security and nutrition in the Pacific island countries. The Regional Conference emphasized the importance of focusing the work of FAO on key challenges faced by countries, in line with FAO's comparative advantages.
32. The Ministers and delegates supported the efforts made by the Regional Office to enable FAO to deliver in a more effective, efficient and sustainable manner, with greater sense of empowerment and ownership of member countries. The Regional Conference appreciated steps taken to decentralize roles, responsibilities, authorities and resources and urged FAO to continue such decentralization measures.
33. The Regional Conference acknowledged the importance of national Zero Hunger Challenge programmes to translate the UN Secretary-General's initiative into concrete national-level action.
34. Ministers and delegates highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration with partner organizations at global, regional and national levels, including with research institutions, multilateral development institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, and other international and regional development and knowledge organizations. The value of regional sharing of knowledge, experience and expertise, including through South-South cooperation was particularly highlighted.
35. The Regional Conference took note of the statement of the Chairperson of the Southwest Pacific Ministers of Agriculture Forum in seeking additional representation for the Southwest Pacific Region on the FAO Council.
36. The Regional Conference welcomed the celebration of the International Year of Family Farming and encouraged FAO and member countries to make full use of the opportunity to highlight the contributions and needs of family farmers throughout the region. The Conference also recognized the importance of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, to be convened jointly by FAO and the World Health Organization in November 2014.

D. Round Table on the Double Burden of Malnutrition

37. An informal Ministerial Round Table on the Double Burden of Malnutrition was convened on 14 March.⁸

IV. Other Matters

A. Date and Place of the Thirty-third FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

38. The Regional Conference recommended the acceptance of the gracious offer of the Government of Malaysia to host the thirty-third Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, in 2016.

B. Any Other Matters

39. The Regional Conference took note of five Information Notes on: Regional Rice Strategy for Asia and the Pacific; Sustainable intensification of aquaculture for food and nutritional security in the Asia-Pacific region; Regional action plan for the global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics; Summary of recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions (RTCs); and Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2).⁹

40. The Regional Conference took note of the outcome of the twenty-fifth session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS), convened in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in February 2014, including the Commission's endorsement of FAO's work on agricultural statistics, support for the establishment of a Global Commission on Agricultural Statistics, and the request from member countries for further information on its establishment.

41. The Regional Conference received a report from the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), enumerating the achievements realized since the 23rd COAG session in 2012, including the approval of the new International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and the launch of Global Soil Partnership, and invited the Ministers from Asia and the Pacific to attend the 24th session of COAG, to be held in Rome from 29 September to 3 October 2014.

42. The Regional Conference noted the existence of constraints on the export of kava from Pacific island countries to some parts of the world and FAO was requested to further assess the matter and support standard-setting under *Codex Alimentarius*, as appropriate, to facilitate international trade of this important cultural and ceremonial drink of the Pacific.

43. In response to a proposal made by the Chair of the Regional Conference, the Honourable Minister for Industry and Agriculture, Government of Mongolia, for the Conference to issue a ministerial declaration in line with similar arrangements made at other regional conferences, to reinforce high-level commitment to the outcomes of the Conference, the 'Ulaanbaatar Communiqué' was prepared and is given in Appendix C.

C. Concluding items

Adoption of the Report

44. The Regional Conference unanimously adopted the report as presented by the Rapporteur.

Closure of the Regional Conference

⁸ APRC/14/9

⁹ APRC/14/INF/5, APRC/14/INF/6, APRC/14/INF/7, APRC/14/INF/8 and APRC/14/INF/9 Rev.1, respectively



45. On behalf of His Excellency Khaltmaa Battulga and the Government of Mongolia, Mr Lkhasuren Choi-ish thanked the participants for their positive contributions, which had led to the Regional Conference's success. In closing the Conference, he called for renewed efforts and collaboration in addressing the challenges of combating hunger and ensuring sustainable rural development in the region.
46. Participants expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the people and Government of Mongolia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements in hosting the Regional Conference, and to FAO for the efficient preparation and organization.

APPENDIX A**AGENDA****I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

1. Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Appointment of Rapporteur
2. Adoption of Agenda and Timetable
3. Statement by the Director-General
4. Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
5. Statement by the Chairperson of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
6. Statement by the Chairperson of the CFS
7. Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation
8. Prioritization of country and regional needs

II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY ISSUES

9. State of food and agriculture in Asia and the Pacific region, including future prospects and emerging issues
10. Update on the Committee on World Food Security
11. Realizing economic opportunities in agriculture to promote greater food security in Pacific Island Countries
12. Meeting farmers' aspirations in the context of green development
13. Restoration of grasslands and forests for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the promotion of ecosystem services

III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS

14. Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region
15. Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network

I. OTHER MATTERS

16. Date and place of the 33rd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
17. Any other matters

Round table on the Double Burden of Malnutrition

APPENDIX B**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

APRC/14/1 Rev.1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
APRC/14/2	State of food and agriculture in Asia and the Pacific region, including future prospects and emerging issues
APRC/14/3	Update on the Committee on World Food Security
APRC/14/4	Realizing economic opportunities in agriculture to promote greater food security in Pacific Island Countries
APRC/14/5	Meeting farmers' aspirations in the context of green development
APRC/14/6 Rev.1	Restoration of grasslands and forests for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the promotion of ecosystem services
APRC/14/7	Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region
APRC/14/8	Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network
APRC/14/9	Round table on double burden of malnutrition

INF SERIES

APRC/14/INF/1 Rev.2	Provisional timetable
APRC/14/INF/2 Rev.2	Provisional list of documents
APRC/14/INF/3	Information note
APRC/14/INF/4	Statement by the Director-General
APRC/12/INF/5	Regional rice strategy for Asia and the Pacific
APRC/14/INF/6	Sustainable intensification of aquaculture for food and nutritional security in the Asia-Pacific region
APRC/14/INF/7	Regional action plan for the global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics
APRC/14/INF/8	Summary of recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions (RTCs)
APRC/14/INF/9	Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)
APRC/14/INF/10	Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

OD SERIES

APRC/14/OD/1	Order of the Day
APRC/14/OD/2	Order of the Day
APRC/14/OD/3	Order of the Day
APRC/14/OD/4	Order of the Day
APRC/14/OD/5	Order of the Day

WEB DOCUMENTS

(available at <http://www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/meeting-docs/rc/aprc32/en/>)

List of Delegates and Observers

Inaugural Statement by H.E. Prime Minister of Mongolia

Statement by the Director-General

Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

Statement by the Chairperson of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

Statement by the Chairperson of the CFS on the Outcomes of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security and Update of the CFS Reform

Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation

Round table on the Double Burden of Malnutrition



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APPENDIX C**ULAANBAATAR COMMUNIQUÉ**

We, Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific:

Conscious of the magnitude of the challenges to achieve a food-secure Asia-Pacific region by raising agricultural productivity, in particular, the small holder farmers' productivity, and alleviating poverty while protecting the region's natural resources base;

Acknowledge the good progress made towards achieving MDG No.1 hunger goal for the region which could be attained by 2015 if we redouble our efforts and work together in close partnership;

Recognizing the positive effects and achievements of the transformational changes put in place under the leadership of the Director-General during the last biennium and noting that sustained efforts will be needed to achieve the desired outcomes;

Express our appreciation of the renewed efforts and actions being undertaken by the FAO through its Strategic Framework in supporting the Members;

Support the implementation of FAO's four regional initiatives on: Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific, Regional Rice Initiative (Phase II), Blue Growth, and Developing Local Value Chains for food Security and Nutrition in Pacific Island countries;

Express our confidence in and continued support to the new strategic direction of the organization and underline the necessity for continuity to achieve the full impact of these changes;

Appreciate the efforts made in support to family farming in the framework of the International Year of Family Farming 2014 and underscore that family farming constitutes an essential component of the region's economies and societies; and

Reaffirm our commitment to work hand in hand with FAO towards the achievement of the common goals and objectives and to eradicate hunger in our region.