联合国   Food and Agriculture   Organisation des Nations   Продовольственная и   Organización de las   منظمة
粮食及   Organization of the   Unies pour l'alimentation сельскохозяйственная организация Naciones Unidas para la   الأغذية والزراعة
农业组织   United Nations   et l'agriculture   Объединенных Наций   Alimentación y la Agricultura للأمم المتحدة

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Thirtieth Session
Khartoum, the Sudan, 19-23 February 2018
Results and Priorities for FAO in the Africa Region

Executive Summary

FAO's Strategic Framework, reviewed in 2016-2017, provides direction for FAO's technical work and its Strategic Programmes (SPs) to effectively address the priorities in the region and ensure effective delivery of results at country level. The Reviewed Strategic Framework of FAO and its Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2018-21 and Programme Work and Budget (PWB) 2018-19 were approved by the FAO Conference in its 40th Session in July 2017. The Conference appreciated the close alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives (SOs) with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As supported by the Regional Conference in its 29th Session, during 2016-17 FAO focused its work on three regional initiatives: Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025; Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development; and Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands.

The SPs have been instrumental in enabling FAO to effectively respond to the challenges and address the priorities in the African region during 2016-17, in a coherent, consistent and synergetic manner to achieve significant results at country level. The SPs have enhanced the relevance and coherence of the global commitments to regional priorities and facilitated an integrated approach in terms of delivery at country level and helped articulate the Regional Initiatives to effectively respond to the most important regional priorities and achieve results. Partnerships with the regional, subregional (Regional Economic Commissions [RECs]) and country partners have facilitated development of policies and strategies, programme implementation and tracking progress. Collaboration with UN Agencies, notably the Rome-based Agencies, International Financial Institutions, resource partners and South-South partners have contributed significantly to the achievement of results at country level.

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It is proposed to maintain and fine-tune the three Regional Initiatives in 2018-19, which support the SDGs and the commitments of African leaders under the Malabo Declaration (2014), in an integrated manner. The Commitment to End Hunger continues to be anchored within the CAADP1 results framework. Sustainable Production Intensification and value chain development will benefit from collaboration between SPs (notably SP2 and SP4) and the conceptual underpinnings of the Sustainable Food and Agriculture approach. The Dryland Resilience programme will place further emphasis on climate-related shocks and desertification, and aims to mobilize climate finance. Work in the region will also give priority to decent youth employment in agriculture and agribusiness, and sustainable rice systems development.

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Matters to be brought to the attention of the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference may wish to consider:

    a)   recognizing the importance of the Strategic Framework in providing direction for FAO's technical work to address priorities in the region and ensuring effective delivery of results at country level;

    b)   recognizing the work completed through SPs and the results achieved by FAO in 2016-17 under the Regional Initiatives and other main areas of work in responding to the main priorities identified in the 29th Session of the Regional Conference.

    c)   taking note of the alignment of FAO's SOs with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

    d)   noting the key role of the SPs in integrating the Organization's technical work at regional and country level to address multifaceted development challenges and provide efficient and adequate support to countries on the SDGs.

    e)   supporting the important contribution of the SPs to the delivery of normative products and services, such as standards, voluntary guidelines and legal instruments, at country and regional levels.

    f)   providing guidance on areas of regional priority for FAO's work in 2018-19 and beyond based on major trends and challenges in the region, including the SDGs and climate change, and experience with the Regional Initiatives in 2016-17.

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[1] Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

I.   Introduction

1.   The Reviewed Strategic Framework of FAO[2] and its Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2018-21 and Programme Work and Budget (PWB) 2018-19[3] were approved by the FAO Conference in its 40th Session in July 2017. The Conference appreciated the close alignment of FAO SOs with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

2.   The reviewed Strategic Framework was developed through a consultative strategic thinking process during 2016, taking into account the strong and consistent support expressed by FAO governing bodies for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization. This process involved identification of global trends expected to frame agricultural development over the medium term,[4] and sectoral and regional trends arising from regional strategic reviews and deliberations of the FAO Regional Conferences[5] and Technical Committees;[6] derivation of main challenges expected to be faced by countries and development actors in food and agriculture in the coming years; analysis of main global developments setting the overall context in which FAO operates; and the implications of these challenges and developments for FAO SOs in the context of FAO's basic attributes and core functions. The review also took into account the major global developments that occurred in 2015-2016, most importantly, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, and entry into force of the Paris Agreement on Climate change which will provide the broad context in which FAO will operate and adapt for enhanced delivery and impact of the Organization's work.

3.   The reviewed Strategic Framework provided the basis for fine-tuning the conceptual framework and theory of change of FAO's five SOs within the context of the Organization's vision, attributes and core functions, as summarized in Figure 1. The MTP 2018-21 and PWB 2018-19 set out the programmatic framework and resources for planning, implementing and monitoring results through indicators and targets, including the contribution of FAO's work toward 40 SDG targets. Web Annex 1 provides an overview of FAO's SPs including alignment with the SDGs.

4.   FAO Regional Initiatives serve as a mechanism to ensure effective delivery and impact of FAO's work on the key priorities of each region contributing to the SOs. The 2016 Regional Conference considered FAO achievements in the region and identified priority areas to be considered for the three Regional Initiatives in 2016-17: Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025; Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development; and Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands.

5.   It is proposed to maintain and fine-tune these Regional Initiatives in 2018-19, which support the SDGs and the commitments of African leaders under the Malabo Declaration (2014), in an integrated manner. The Commitment to End Hunger continues to be anchored within the CAADP[7] result framework. Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development will benefit from collaboration between SPs (notably SP2 and SP4) and the conceptual underpinnings of the Sustainable Food and Agriculture approach. The Dryland Resilience programme will place further emphasis on climate-related shocks and desertification, and aims to mobilize climate finance. Work in the region will also give priority to decent youth employment in agriculture and agribusiness, and sustainable rice systems development.

6.   In this context, the Regional Conference provides an opportunity for Members to advise on results of and priorities for FAO's work in the region through FAO's Strategic Programmes. The document is divided into two main sections:

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[2] C 2017/7 (www.fao.org/pwb)
[3] C 2017/3 (www.fao.org/pwb)
[4] FAO 2016. *The future of food and agriculture – Trends and challenges.* Rome.
[5] C 2017/14, C 2017/15, C 2017/16, C 2017/17, C 2017/18, C 2017/LIM/1
[6] C 2017/21, C 2017/22, C 2017/23, C 2017/24
[7] Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

- Section II describes how the SPs during 2016-17 helped countries achieve results in the context of agreed priorities for FAO's work in the region.
- Section III gives an overview of trends and developments in the region going forward, the regional priorities for FAO's work and how they can be addressed by the SPs through the regional initiatives, including a regional view of SP Output targets for 2018-19.

II.   Achievements in the Region

7.   The FAO Strategic Framework has a direct appeal to and bearing on the unique challenges African countries face and the priorities they set for themselves. Challenges of hunger and malnutrition, poverty, low level of productivity, weak value-chains, and high degree of vulnerability to different kinds of shocks (e.g. climate-induced, and conflicts) all characterize the food and agriculture landscapes in Africa. The SPs have been instrumental in enabling FAO to effectively respond to those challenges and priorities in the African region, in a coherent, consistent and synergetic manner. More specifically the SPs have:

- Enhanced the relevance and coherence of the global commitments (e.g. SDGs) to regional priorities (Malabo commitments on agriculture), and facilitated an integrated approach in terms of delivery at country level.
- Helped to articulate the priorities as defined by national partners within the Country Programming Framework (CPF) in a more holistic and coherent manner, linking them with regional and global commitments.
- Enabled identification of relevant interlocutors, beyond the traditional ministries of agriculture, and facilitated constructive intersectoral and multistakeholders engagement and coordination, around programmatic interventions, paving the way for mutual accountability for results.
- Helped articulate the Regional Initiatives, as delivery mechanisms, to effectively respond to the most important regional priorities and achieve results.

8.   Achievements in each of the Regional Initiatives (with reference to the relevant Strategic Programmes) are described below. Details on the follow-up to the recommendations of the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa are provided in document ARC/18/INF/8.

A.   Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025

9.   Facilitated by FAO's Strategic Programme on Hunger Eradication, Food Security and Nutrition (SP1) and in collaboration with SP2, SP3, SP4 and SP5, the Regional Initiative on Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025 supports an holistic and integrated approach to country, subregional and regional efforts towards the achievement of regional and global commitments (Malabo goals and SDG2 respectively) .

10.   FAO continues to strengthen its collaboration with the African Union (AU) and the RECs to support the efforts of member countries towards 'Ending Hunger and Malnutrition" by 2025. FAO's engagement has focused on supporting development and implementation of policies, strategies, investment plans and monitoring systems to improve food security and nutrition, gender equality, social protection, private sector investment, and strengthening institutional capacities for improved implementation and stakeholder coordination and accountability.

11.   To this end, FAO supported the AU Commission (AUC) to formulate its three-year medium-term implementation plan for the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS) and facilitated the advocacy work of the AU Nutrition Champion. Similarly, FAO supported the Sustainable School Food and Nutrition Strategy development (2015-2025) and its implementation Plan, the Africa Renewed Initiative for Stunting Elimination (ARISE), the AU Chairperson Initiative for nutrition in drought and conflict countries, and the establishment of the Pan-African Parliamentary Alliance for

Food Security and Nutrition. The latter has been instrumental in strengthening the capacities of Parliamentarians for legal frameworks in support of Food Security and Nutrition including the right to adequate food.

12.   FAO has facilitated policy dialogues for rallying political engagement towards implementing global and regional commitments (notably SDGs, Malabo, ICN2) and fostering mutual accountability mechanisms, as well as building implementation capacities. In this respect, FAO supported efforts towards the implementation of SDGs and their translation into national strategies and action plans as well as the preparation of SDG Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) in participating member countries (Benin, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Togo); and in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) FAO has facilitated regional policy dialogue on ending hunger and achieving food security in Africa as part of the follow-up and review of the implementation of SDGs and AU Agenda 2063.

13.   Similarly, FAO in collaboration with the AUC, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and RECs (the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS], the Economic Community of Central African States [ECCAS], the Southern African Development Community [SADC], and the East African Community [EAC]) has contributed to strengthening the capacities of member countries (e.g. Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Chad) as they prepare their biennial review reports on Malabo Declaration. In partnership with the ECOWAS Zero Hunger Initiative, FAO has been supporting member countries as they formulate their national agriculture investment plans. The implementation of ECOWAS multisectoral nutrition initiatives is assessed and the regional nutrition strategic plan validated. Through FAO's support, the formulation of the Regional Fishery and Aquaculture Policy for ECOWAS member countries was facilitated. FAO also supported tracking and monitoring of the implementation of the roadmaps on integrating food security and nutrition developed by the Indian Ocean Countries and Small Island Countries in Africa.

14.   A Regional Symposium on Nutrition organized by FAO and WHO in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in November 2017, fostered a better articulation of the regional dimensions and specificities of food systems for healthy diet and improved nutrition, which emphasised practical entry points for concerted policy and programmatic actions as well as on enhancing mutual accountability for meeting regional and global nutrition commitments.

15.   FAO's collaboration with the African Development Bank led to development of a multidepartmental nutrition strategy of the Bank, which will be instrumental in the design and implementation of nutrition-sensitive agriculture investment.

16.   At the country level, FAO has been supporting member countries in the review and implementation of their food security and nutrition policies and strategies. Some notable examples include, the costing of the Agriculture Sector Food Security and Nutrition Strategy in Nigeria; review and design of agriculture investment plans in Benin, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, the Niger, and Togo; the Agriculture Sector Growth and Transformation Strategy in Kenya; the fourth Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy in Rwanda; the "nutritional value of local products and livestock development strategy" in Chad; the integration of nutrition component into the national food security and nutrition policies in Angola; the implementation of the integrated nutrition-sensitive food fortification programme in the Gambia; and mainstreaming of livestock in the implementation of Integrated Industrial Park in Ethiopia, among others.

17.   In addition, FAO has been providing policy support at country level through deployment of senior policy officers, working directly with key government counterparts in 13 African countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, the Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Swaziland and Uganda) and in ECOWAS, which has contributed to improved policy and institutional environment for multisectoral coordination and policy dialogue, and enhanced capacities for policy analysis and reform and programme development and implementation.

18.   With regard to improving evidence based monitoring of policies and programmes on ending hunger, the capacity of National Statistics Offices and Ministries of Agriculture focal points in 24 African countries were strengthened and existing food security monitoring initiatives at national and regional levels have been identified together with the key institutions involved. Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) and Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) were introduced as important tools for SDG monitoring.

19.   Two Regional Panorama, which highlight the food security and nutrition situation in Africa as well as the supporting policies and programmes, were produced and widely disseminated in 2016 and 2017. They highlight, respectively, "The Challenges of Building Resilience to Shocks and Stresses" and "The conflict-food security nexus, building resilience for peace and food security".

20.   FAO has facilitated experience sharing, through South-South Cooperation, among countries within Africa as well as between African countries and Asian and South American countries. These shared experiences contributed to enhancement of policy, planning and implementation of food security and nutrition interventions.

21.   FAO has been supporting evidence-based analysis of gender inequalities and women empowerment through comprehensive Country Gender Assessment of the Agricultural and Rural Sectors in member countries. This will help design inclusive policies towards the achievement of the African commitment to ending hunger and malnutrition.

B.   Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development

22.   Facilitated by FAO's Strategic Programmes on Sustainable Agriculture (SP2) and Food Systems (SP4) and in collaboration with SP3, this Regional Initiative has been supporting regional, subregional and country efforts in promoting sustainable food and agriculture (SFA) and inclusive value chain development, through a more integrated and holistic approach to food systems.

23.   In the areas of land policy, senior government officials and a number of young land surveyors have been trained (in collaboration with International Federation of Surveyors) on the application of Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) in enhancing land governance and effective land administration. Incorporating VGGT provisions in the development of Monitoring and Evaluation for Land Governance is being piloted in 12 countries and technical support has been provided to some member countries in the customization of Solutions for Open Land Administration (SOLA) for use in registration of land rights to help protect tenure rights. FAO facilitated experience sharing among countries in terms of efficient use of the VGGT principles among civil society organizations and grassroots organizations and in the promotion of policies that influence the drivers and address challenges in relation to sustainable land use across the Africa region.

24.   FAO has been collaborating with RECs and other regional partners in supporting member countries in forestry management. FAO has been leading the forest and food security component of the Forest Strategic Framework in Central Africa in close collaboration with ECCAS and Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC). Within the framework of assessing institutional and technical needs in the area of Forest Monitoring and Forest Reference Emission Levels (FRELs) in nine West African countries, the following results have been achieved: capacity to undertake national forest inventory assessed; capacity of undertaking Remote Sensing/GIS activities and satellite image processing and interpretation for land use changes analysed; capacity for compiling Green House Gas Inventories conducted; availability of data management and archiving system and capacity to manage assessed. Through the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM), FAO has been supporting member countries (e.g. Burkina Faso, the Niger) in accessing funds related to the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) and forest restoration. Using a regional approach proved to be useful in implementing the monitoring and evaluation system in the implementation of REDD+ activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Guinea.

25.   FAO has been providing support to more than 20 member countries in the identification and development of climate change related project ideas and/or concept notes for possible consideration by the Green Climate Fund.

26.   Sustainable production of rice has been promoted through strengthening the capacity of 11 countries on improved methods and applications on rice breeding and agribusiness in rice value chain. Seed producers in West and East African Countries (Benin, Cameroon, Guinea, Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania) have been supported in partnership with AfricaRice.

27.   FAO's support in inclusive and integrated approaches has helped smallholder farmers to improve their livelihoods. Examples include, the institutional innovations in mobilising village level savings to improve liquidity constraints, which have enabled smallholder famers in Ghana, particularly women farmers, better access to land and other inputs to sustainably intensify their production and improve their incomes; the large scaling up conservation agriculture (CA) project in Zambia, which has supported 20 000 lead farmers, who in turn have mentored 200 000 follower farmers; and promotion of the landscape restoration model to restore over 3 000 hectares of agrosilvopastoral systems in Burkina Faso and the Niger. Likewise, in Kenya, more than 26 000 farmers have adopted CA in the eight project counties and productivity among farmers who have adopted has increased. Productivity on CA demo farms has increased by 100-150 percent. Five of the eight counties have mainstreamed conservation agriculture into their five-year strategic plans referred to as County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs).

28.   In the areas of value chain development, FAO has been providing support to countries in creating an enabling environment for sustainable small-scale enterprise development through agribusiness public-private partnerships (PPPs). Capacities have been strengthened in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon and Ghana on Inclusive Business Model (IBM) approaches, which provide guidance and tools to government officials, private sector actors and civil society organizations on integrating smallholders into modern agricultural value chains. Over a hundred small and medium agro-enterprises (SMAEs) operators across the African continent have been trained in agribusiness and entrepreneurship, with priority given to youth and women. Some of the SMAEs have been selected for a follow-on mentorship programme in collaboration with African Agribusiness Incubator Network (AAIN).

29.   Application of food systems approaches through improved fish culture and processing in several countries has contributed to job creation, improved food quality, reduced food losses/waste, and better incomes for women and youth, while reducing their exposure to health hazards. Introduction of mobile phone and tablet technology in routine data collection in artisanal marine fisheries has improved reliability of data and analysis on fish health. Support to regional fisheries bodies (Committee on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, Fishery Committee for the Eastern and Central Africa) improved coordination and harmonization of activities.

C.   Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands

30.   Facilitated by FAO's Strategic Programme on Resilience (SP5) and in collaboration with SP1, SP2 and SP3, this Regional Initiative has been supporting countries and RECs to develop resilience strategies such as the strengthening of capacity for resilience in Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) through the institutionalization of the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FNSWG) and review of the main resilience strategic framework – the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI). Furthermore, support was provided for finalizing resilience building strategies in Ethiopia, Madagascar and Zimbabwe.

31.   Policy synthesis reports prepared by FAO provided the basis for a policy dialogue on the contribution of livestock in IGAD member countries – which enables the countries to develop stronger evidence base for accounting of the contribution of livestock to economies, thereby advocating increased investment and policy considerations for livestock production systems. Capacity of

institutions of member countries have been strengthened in the formulation of appropriate livestock feed management strategies in the drylands (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe), and in resilience programming in cash-based interventions in Central and Southern African countries. This was reinforced through facilitation of knowledge and experience sharing between countries in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa and with IGAD and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) on pastoralism, the interface between gender and resilience, as well as institutional governance for resilience.

32.   Through interventions on risk preparedness and response, FAO has been strengthening countries capacities in combatting emerging and or re-emerging high impact infectious diseases such as Emerging Pandemic Threats (EPT-2), as well as reaching out to tens of millions of beneficiaries in famine affected countries to protect their livelihoods.

33.   FAO's support to about 30 member countries in the control and management of a major outbreak of Fall Armyworm (FAW) threatening maize production in Africa has been consequential. The support focused on enhancing preparedness, response and recovery capacity of affected member countries. A programme framework for the management of FAW prepared under the leadership of FAO has been endorsed by AU policy organs, and FAO has been invited to coordinate efforts in support the management and control of FAW in Africa. Similarly, a major outbreak of Avian influenza threatening the poultry industry in West African countries, and a potential hazard for human health, was averted thanks to concerted efforts of affected member countries, FAO and some partners through the technical support provided to five countries, which has contributed to the control of the disease.

34.   FAO has been assisting member countries in West and Central Africa (in collaboration with CILSS, ECOWAS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union [UEMOA]) in eliminating existing obsolete pesticides, including Persistent Organic Pollutants and associated wastes, remediate contaminated sites and to strengthen the capacity for sound pesticides management at regional and national levels.

D.   The role of partnerships

35.   Effective strategic partnerships that FAO has forged over the years have proved useful in achieving results towards the achievement of the goals of ending hunger, sustainable production intensification and value chain development, and resilience building. In particular, the partnerships with the regional (notably AU), subregional (RECs) and country partners have facilitated development of policies and strategies, programme implementation and tracking progress. Collaboration with UN Agencies, notably the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), International Financial Institutions (e.g. African Development Bank [AfDB], the World Bank [WB]), resource partners and South-South partners have contributed significantly to the achievement of results at country level.

36.   Together with the RBAs, FAO has engaged in high-level policy dialogues with governments and other stakeholders; the most notable include working together in building resilience and emergency preparedness and response to El Niño and La Niña, in the context of the 2030 Agenda. High-level policy dialogues were conducted in a number of countries by senior managers of the three RBAs, as well as by the joint top executives of the agencies including the FAO Director-General through the joint high-level visits to drought-hit Ethiopia (September 2017), conflict-ridden Democratic Republic of the Congo (August 2017), famine-stricken South Sudan (May 2017); and drought-hit Madagascar induced by El Niño (November 2016).

37.   Through the RBA joint conceptual framework, "Strengthening Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition", RBAs collaborate in resilience building for vulnerable populations through harmonized strategies and actions in several countries. FAO and WFP also support the Resilience

Analysis Unit (RAU) led by the IGAD to conduct analyses of resilience contexts and to develop a joint communication strategy and e-learning tools.

38.   Other areas of collaboration among RBAs include: a joint project on food losses and waste, "Mainstreaming Food Loss Reduction Initiatives for Smallholders in Food-Deficit Areas" to set up an innovative global reference centre on food losses and to inform national and regional policy through field-level activities in Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda; the development and delivery of packages of holistic innovative animal health interventions for the management and control of animal trypanosomiasis and other vector-borne diseases, to improve livestock health and production in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Kenya; and an impact evaluation of the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Programme in Zambia.

39.   Partnerships with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) was mainly on mobilization of resources in support of agriculture, food security and nutrition in member countries. During 2016 and 2017, FAO provided substantial technical assistance to governments in the design of a number of investment operations in partnership with IFIs, mainly the World Bank and IFAD.

40.   Through South-South Cooperation, FAO has facilitated a number of exchange visits and experience sharing programmes related to policy and innovations (e.g. rice production and post-harvest management, processing, marketing), poverty reduction, food security, agricultural development, decentralization, agricultural statistics etc., among African countries as well as between Africa and countries in the global south (e.g. the Republic of Korea, Brazil, China, Peru, Ecuador, Malaysia, Indonesia).

41.   Overview and assessment of results in the region at level of Outputs, Outcome and Strategic Objective, are provided in Web Annex 2 - Reported contribution of results in the Region to Strategic Objective Output targets.

III.   Priority areas of work 2018-19 and beyond

42.   According to the UNECA's 2017 Africa Sustainable Development Report, Africa's agricultural productivity, measured in terms of agricultural value added increased by 9 percent during 2010-2015, but remains only 62 percent of the global average in 2015. Further, this sluggish growth has not created sufficient decent jobs in rural areas. As a result, the rate of decline in extreme poverty has been slow in Africa, declining a mere 15 percent during 1990-2013. The Report laments that women and young people bore the brunt of poverty in Africa, with 32.1 percent of working men, compared with 35.1 percent of working women, having been classified as poor in 2015. Hence, despite its huge potential, agriculture's contribution to poverty reduction and to shared prosperity is still low – with direct implications for youth employment, gender equality and transformation of the agrifood systems.

43.   Demographic transition in the African region has resulted in high population growth, the majority of which are young people. FAO's and CIRAD's joint publication on "Rural Africa in motion: Dynamics and drivers of migration South of the Sahara" estimated the absolute numbers of intra-African migrants had have reached about 16 million in 2015, arguing that migration in Africa has been largely an intraregional phenomenon than that of out-migration to other regions. The fact, however, remains that young people in Africa are losing interest in working in agriculture and staying in rural areas. The way agriculture is organized and conducted at the moment does not depict a future with decent jobs for youth.

44.   According to FAO's 2017 State of Food Security and Nutrition Report, the situation of food security and nutrition in parts of Sub-Saharan Africa has worsened. Progress in reducing multiple forms of malnutrition has been found to be rather poor, and only a small proportion of countries are on track to meet the World Health Assembly (WHA) targets for wasting and stunting for children under five and anaemia in women of reproductive age. Issues of food safety are of serious health concern to

the majority of consumers. Deteriorations in food security and malnutrition have been observed most notably in situations of conflict and/or conflict combined with droughts or floods. Conflicts, which are found to be the drivers for much of the recent increase in food insecurity, have been on the rise within Africa. The impact of conflict on rural livelihoods has particularly been severe in countries with large rural and agricultural sectors. Hunger and undernutrition are reported to have been significantly worse where conflicts are prolonged and institutional capacities weak.

45.   In many African countries, the worsening situation of food insecurity and malnutrition in 2015 and 2016 could be attributed to adverse climatic conditions, often linked to the El Niño phenomenon.[8] As a result, even some of the countries that have been most successful at reducing food insecurity appear to have experienced a setback, signifying that high degree of vulnerability to risks, including climate-induced shocks, still defines Africa's food and agriculture systems. Further, outbreaks of plants and animal diseases and pests are undermining progress towards meeting the goals of food security and nutrition in Africa. FAW, which was first reported in Africa in 2016, has spread rapidly to cover practically all Sub-Saharan African countries. In the absence of effective sustainable management and control interventions, it has the capacity of impacting negatively the production of maize and other crops. The same is true with outbreaks of transboundary animal diseases and pests such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, *peste des petits ruminants*, etc.

46.   Given the complexity of conflicts and the conflict-food insecurity nexus, which climate change may amplify, a sustainable impact of food security and nutrition-related interventions on peace is more likely when implemented as part of a broader, multisectoral set of interventions before, during and after conflict. Addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in conflict-affected situations cannot be "business as usual". It requires a conflict-sensitive approach that aligns actions for immediate humanitarian assistance, long-term development and sustaining peace. Achieving SDG2 will require renewed efforts through new ways of working.

47.   The above-mentioned trends and developments in the Africa region suggest the continued relevance of the priorities that defined the current FAO Regional Initiatives as well as highlight the need for a deepening and acceleration of concerted actions to achieve desired results. Consequently, it is suggested that the three Regional Initiatives that have been guiding FAO actions on priorities of the region during 2016-2017 continue to help focus priority actions for the 2018-2019 biennium.

48.   The alignment of FAO's SOs with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs provides an opportunity for a holistic approach in programming, operationalizing and tracking progress as well as ensuring mutual accountability for results. FAO's partnership and collaboration with AU and RECs in supporting countries in the delivery of Malabo commitments in a coherent and integrated manner with the SDGs, will lead to synergies and effectiveness in delivery of results.

49.   The Regional Initiative on Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025 will focus on work related to delivery on the relevant SDGs and Malabo commitments in an integrated manner, through supporting evidence-based planning, implementation and tracking progress; as well as supporting nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems for healthy and nutritious diets, including food safety. Emphasis will be given to:

      a)   mainstreaming Zero Hunger in all of FAO's work at country and regional levels;
      b)   promoting a food systems approach for better nutrition with due consideration of the effects of urbanization, climate change and migration, social protection;
      c)   strengthening policy support at country level, aiming at creating conducive policies and institutional environment, also through operationalizing at country level FAO's global normative products and guidelines; and

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[8] In Sub-Saharan Africa, rate of undernourishment rose from nearly 21 percent in 2015 to just under 23 percent in 2016. The number of undernourished appears to have risen from 200 million in 2015 to 224 million in 2016.

    d)   increasing public sector resource allocation, stimulating private sector investments and enhancing stakeholder implementation capacities, including through the engagement of private sector and international financial institutions, in support of sustainable and nutrition-sensitive agriculture, food security and nutrition.

50.   The Regional Initiative on Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development will focus on:

    a)   strengthening sustainable food and agriculture systems which will be achieved through promoting the key principles of SFA, by raising awareness, promoting dialogues and building multistakeholders platforms at regional and country levels. These principles include i) improving efficiency of resources use, ii) direct action to conserve, protect and enhance natural resources, iii) improving rural livelihoods, equity and social wellbeing, including social protection and creating decent employment and income for women and youth; iv) building resilience of people, communities and ecosystems to climate change, and v) fostering responsive and effective governance mechanisms;

    b)   supporting countries in the integration of SDGs in their national multi-year programmes and implementation plans, thus ensuring a more integrated an strategic approach to SFA, as a key component of SDG2; and producing a new generation of multidisciplinary global knowledge products on bio-diversity, farmer field schools, water and landscapes management, nationally determined contribution (NDC) implementation, agroecology, among others; and

    c)   promoting sustainable inclusive value chain development through supporting PPs for innovative entrepreneurships by pursuing a more integrated and holistic approach to support countries in attaining the SDGs; developing and implementing various flagship programmes for upscaling support to food system development, including Urban Food Systems, Trade and Market Integration, One Health approach, the Global Action Programme for Food Security and Nutrition in the small island developing states (SIDS); addressing global challenges such as transboundary diseases and pests, Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), food safety threats and migration; and building innovative partnerships with UN, regional organizations, multistakeholder platforms and South-South Cooperation modalities to develop agrofood systems.

    d)   Supporting initiatives at regional scale, in collaboration with the AU and other regional and subregional partners, to integrate migration and decent youth employment into national development plans and agriculture and rural development policies, strategies and programmes, and address the drivers of migration, harnessing the related development potential and ensuring that no one is left behind by recognizing the needs and aspirations of women and youth as regards employment opportunities, access to productive resources, markets and policy dialogue fora. And to this end, supporting evidence-based policy coherence between migration and agricultural and rural development through robust analysis of rural migration patterns, drivers and impacts, as well as facilitating access to sustainable approaches, tools, best practices, and lessons learned at regional level on migration, food security, climate change, and agricultural and rural development, in partnership with the private sector, financial institutions, civil society, migrants and diaspora communities, focussing on harnessing the contribution of migrants and displaced people to sustainable development.

51.   Finally, the Regional Initiative on Building Resilience on Africa's Drylands will support efforts in addressing vulnerability to risks, while linking development and humanitarian approaches in resilience building, in the context of protracted crises/conflicts, and for effective risk management of transboundary animal and plant diseases and pests (Fall Armyworm, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, *peste des petits ruminants*, etc.) This will be achieved through:

a)   facilitating the mapping, planning and implementation of FAO's support to SDGs, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as well as the Malabo declarations of the African Union;

b)   bridging on the humanitarian-development nexus in which humanitarian interventions are informed by longer-term agricultural and food security programmes;

c)   placing saving agricultural livelihoods at the centre of all resilience building interventions, thus allowing for an integrated multisectoral and multihazard (natural hazards-food chain crises-protracted crises/conflict) -planning and programming and embedding cross-cutting themes such as nutrition, gender, partnerships and climate change; and

d)   focusing on four key pillars: (i) Risk governance and investment plans (support to country and regional Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) policies, support to sustainable peace in the Agenda 2030 context); (ii) Risk information (Global report on food crisis, early warning tools, food security assessments, etc.); (iii) Risk Reduction (social protection inclusion in resilience programmes, cost benefit analysis on DRR, pastoralism, etc.); and (iv) Risk Preparedness and Response (cash transfers, combating high-impact infectious diseases, sustainable management of FAW in Africa, etc.)

52.   Regional view of SP Output targets for 2018-19 is presented in the Annex entitled Planned contribution of results in the Region to Strategic Objective Output targets.

Figure 1: FAO Results Framework – Main Components

FAO's vision

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

The three Global Goals of Members:

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

Strategic Objectives

1) Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
2) Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
3) Reduce rural poverty
4) Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
5) Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Additional objective

6) Technical quality, statistics and cross-cutting themes (climate change, gender, governance, nutrition)

Core Functions

7) 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

8) Assemble, analyse, monitor and improve access to data and information, in areas related to FAO's mandate

9) Facilitate, promote and support policy dialogue at global, regional and country levels

10) Advise and support capacity development at country and regional level to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate evidence-based policies, investments and programmes

11) Advise and support activities that assemble, disseminate and improve the uptake of knowledge, technologies and good practices in the areas of FAO's mandate

12) Facilitate partnerships for food security and nutrition, agriculture and rural development, between governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector

13) 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